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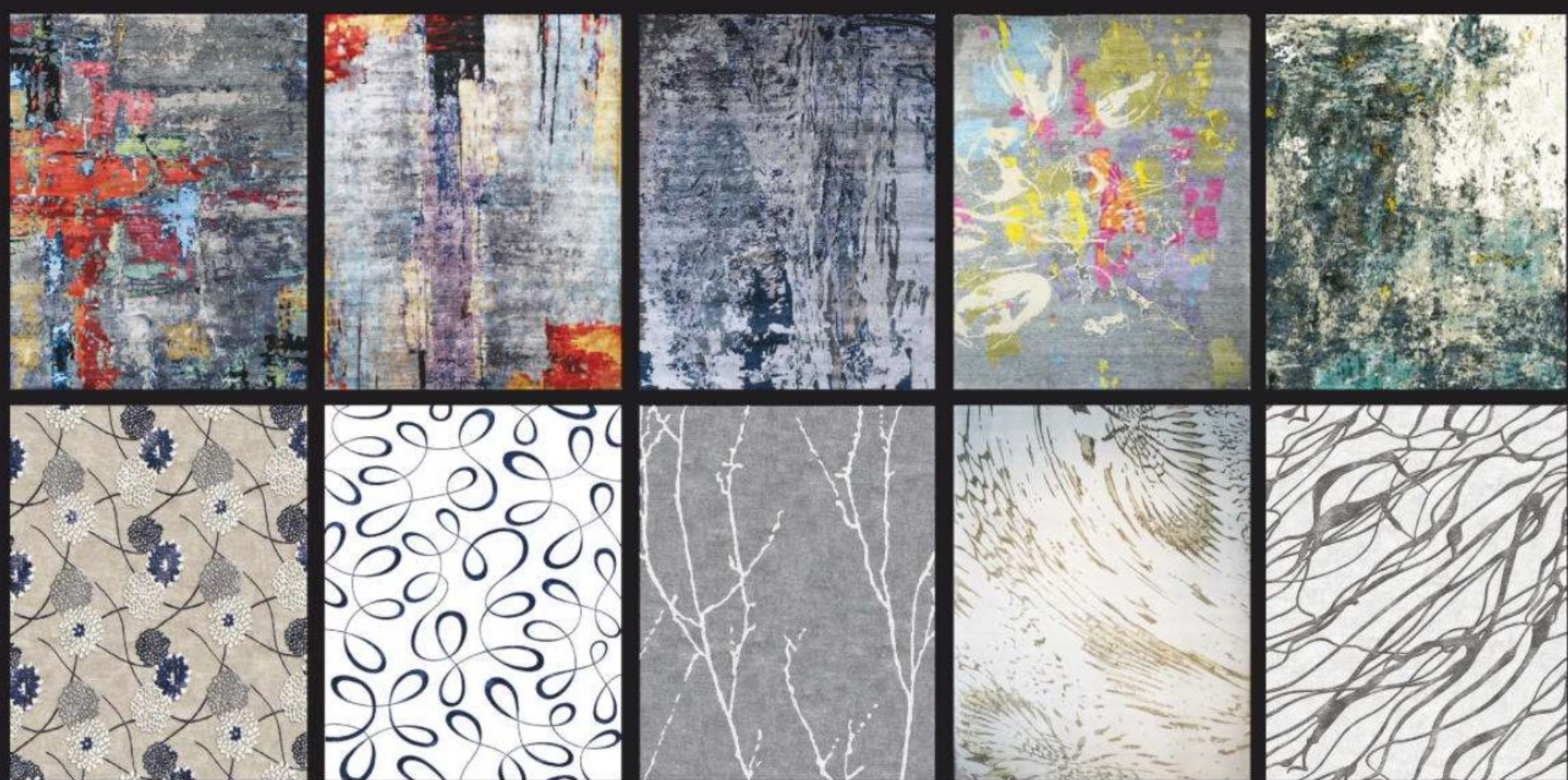

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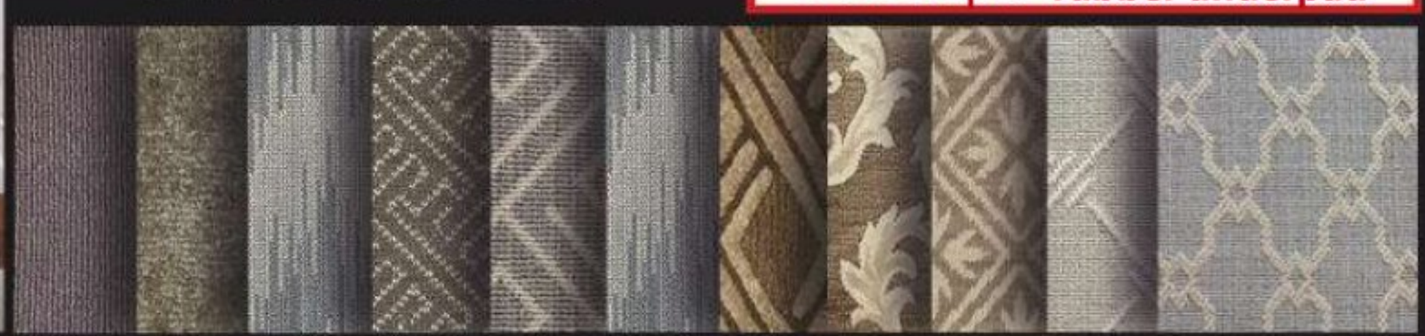

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styleathome FEBRUARY 2016

Cheery green wallpaper is a simple way to bring the outdoors in.

HOMES

72 LIVING THE DREAM
To create their perfect home, a couple decides to gut a space and start from scratch

78 AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER
This love story, starring a family and their dream home, has an applause-worthy ending

86 FROM HOUSE TO HOME
Designer Jillian Harris helps a young family see the bright side of their century-old abode

24 STYLE DESTINATION
Here's why you should put on your parka and visit Old Quebec this winter

26 FOOD NEWS
The latest and greatest gourmet products, kitchen gadgets and more

28 DESSERT OF THE MONTH
Decadent chocolate cherry ganache tartlets

COLUMNS

15 STYLE NEWS
The best home decor products, the hottest trends and the most inspiring ideas

20 TRENDSPOTTING
British racing green is the colour to covet right now

22 HOUSEKEEPING
How to keep hardwood flooring in good condition

30 RENO OF THE MONTH
A designer transforms an outdated bathroom into an inspiring space for her son

32 INSIDE DESIGN
How an amateur decor enthusiast made a career out of what she loves

36 HIGH OR LOW
A chic dressing room devised on a ready-to-wear and an haute couture budget. Can you tell the difference?

36

63

A quirky mix of texture, colour and pattern creates an eye-catching coastal-chic space.

92

DECORATING

42 IN GOOD TASTE
An out-of-date kitchen gets a fresh, modern makeover

46 DOUBLING UP
Brimming with industrial swagger, an edgy-meets-elegant reno sees the union of two lofts

50 AT FIRST SIGHT
A Toronto house is transformed into an eclectic family home filled with character and light

56 MAKE ME OVER
Try one of these 12 bold decor ideas for waking up your space

63 TRIPLE VISION
Our design team revamps a coffee table and then builds a stylish space around it

FOOD

92 ASIA MAJOR
Remedy the cold and blustery days ahead with these colourful and tasty noodle dishes

REGULARS

FROM OUR EDITOR 10

GET SOCIAL 12

WORKBOOK 96

DESIGN PINSPIRATION 98

TABLET EDITION
Get *Style at Home* for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
Hits of blue paired with plush textures result in a bold and beautiful living room **72**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Michael Graydon

THE ITALIAN SENSE OF BEAUTY

KOMMA

TETRIX design Michael Young

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reno RULES

There's nothing like a good makeover to make a design aficionado's decorating senses tingle. The appeal of a newly done, fresh clean space never gets old. That's also why the Before & After issue is one of our favourites to produce every year. We love to highlight amazing interiors that have been transformed from blah to brilliant and be inspired by the talented pros who effect those changes. The stories we're featuring also come with a few insider tips. Here are my top makeover take-aways from this issue.

1. **BE BOLD.** Admit it: As much as you want to have a colourful kitchen, white ends up being the default choice. But celebrity designer Jillian Harris's West Coast reno (see "From House to Home," page 86) makes a strong case for the beauty of blue.

2. **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.** We all want to believe we will have a stress-free reno, but problems are inevitable. "There are always surprises, lots of surprises," says Toronto homeowner Lindsi Rose, who renovated her entire house to perfection (see "Living the Dream," page 72). To paraphrase an overused saying, keep calm and renovate on. Plus, make sure to have an emergency fund.

3. **THROW THE ORIGINAL FLOOR PLANS TO THE WIND.** Think outside the box when it comes to updating your layout. An effective change could be as simple as removing the kitchen table and chairs and replacing them with an oversized island with stools. You'll still have the desirable eat-in space, but with better functionality. Check out a configuration like this in "In Good Taste," page 42.

4. **MAKE IT PERSONAL.** At the end of the day, you have to live in your home. Vancouver-based designers Carrie McCarthy and Tanja Hinder made sure their clients were happy with the finished product (see "An Affair to Remember," page 78). "The more you know about yourself and how you want to feel in your house, the more authentic your results," Carrie says.

Erin

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PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD; HAIR & MAKEUP, NATALIE BLOUIN/PLUTINO GROUP; SHIRT, OVER THE RAINBOW

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PRINTING
Printed at Transcontinental RBW Graphics, a division of Transcontinental Printing 2005 G.P., 2049 20th St. E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 5R2. All reproduction requests must be made to COPIBEC (paper reproductions at 800-717-2022), or CEDROM-SNI (electronic reproductions at reproduction@cedrom-sni.com). ISSN: 1915-8998.

DISTRIBUTION
Distributed by Coast to Coast.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 905-946-0910, STYLEATHOME.COM
STYLE AT HOME, Sub. Dept., P.O. Box 814, Markham Station, Markham, ON L3P 7Z6. Send address changes to the post office box address above, including the mailing label from your latest issue. Allow eight weeks for changes.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
Canadian subscriptions: **12 issues = $29.95** (plus taxes).
U.S. subscriptions: **12 issues = $67.95** (payable in advance).
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Style at Home is published monthly by TVA Publications Inc., 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, ON M2N 6S7; 416-733-7600; groupetva.ca. In the U.S.: TVA Group c/o Media Corps, Attn.: Michelle Gross/Chris Purcell, 2706 Gateway Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009.

Canada — We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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FESTIVE TIDINGS

The December 2015 issue was such a treat. I love how the articles "Rustic Rituals" (page 60), "Front and Centre" (page 72) and "Natural Beauty" (page 76) showcase holiday decorating styles to suit anyone's taste. The photos also demonstrate that simple adornments have the ability to transform a space, and many of the decorations can be made from greenery and items you already have. Thank you for inspiring me to add a little festive wonder to my home during this special time of year.

SUSIE FAUTH, GUELPH, ON

MERRY REFLECTIONS

After flipping through the first few pages of the December 2015 issue, I wanted to send my appreciation. When I was growing up, my mother would spend her mornings on the sofa with *Style at Home*, and I often found myself flipping through her magazine stacks. It's funny how I've taken up her habit now that I have a home of my own. When an issue comes in the mail, I look forward to a Saturday morning when the house is quiet so I can curl up under a blanket and read. Thank you for helping me continue this tradition and for allowing me to house dream for all these years!

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style news

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI

FEBRUARY'S MUST-HAVE: *petal pink walls*

If you're after a quick and affordable way to update your space, look no further than a can of paint. We've curated the industry's top picks for the year into five trends. Our favourite? Pale pink (it's even a 2016 Pantone Color of the Year).

ILLUSTRATION, MICHELLE MORELAN

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com

TREND 2

WHITES

A blank slate full of possibility, white maintains its long-standing reign this year. The right shade is a jumping-off point for any look – daring or restrained.

SIMPLY WHITE
OC-117, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Valspar **DU JOUR** 7002-6, Lowe's, lowes.ca.

Behr **IVORY KEYS** T16-17, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

ALABASTER
SW 7008, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

TREND 3

Brights

For the bold at heart, 2016 ushers in many saturated hues. Whether you choose a rich red, punchy yellow, deep blue or fun pink, you're sure to make a statement.

CHERRIES JUBILEE P5079-85, Para Paints, para.com.

BUNCH O'BANANAS 6096-54, Sico Paint, sico.ca.

Valspar **PACIFIC PLEASURE** 5009-10, Lowe's, lowes.ca.

Behr **PAGODA** T16-02, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

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Though restrained in tone, muted hues are not holding back in their race to the top of trend lists. Tempered by a hint of grey, these desaturated colours are lively yet livable. Best of all? They play well with others.

TREND 4

Muted

FRIENDLY YELLOW SW 6680, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

CHEMISE PINK 60YR 75/075, CIL Paint, cil.ca.

BEAR RUN 10BG 46/112, Dulux Paints, dulux.ca.

WHITE HEAVEN 2068-70, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

NATURAL GREEN 6164-73, Sico Paint, sico.ca.

USEFUL GRAY SW 7050, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

OBSIDIAN PPG1035-7, PPG Pittsburgh Paints, ppgvoiceofcolor.com.

WORSTED 284, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

Turn to page 20 for more great green.

TREND 5

NEW NEUTRALS

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF FARROW & BALL (CONSOLE)

Neutrals are heading over to the dark side. The rich shades are highly versatile, thanks to their roots in nature. Think: the green of lush forests and greys inspired by the likes of stone and volcanic glass.

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Toss cushions are an easy way to introduce a trendy colour into your space.

1

Have this hand-painted lamp customized with your favourite colour. We went with Benjamin Moore's Hunter Green 2041-10.

2

3

4

inspiration

This ribbed sweater dress from Stella McCartney is cozy and chic in hunter green.

Ride in style: Mini's three-door Cooper comes in Metallic British Racing Green.

british racing green

This of-the-moment dark hunter green hue is right on the mark this winter.

PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

5

6

1 Nicole Tarasick cotton twill Big Maple Leaf **TOSS CUSHIONS,** $92 each, Brika, brika.com.

2 **NAIL LACQUER** in British Racing Green, $18, Butter London, butterlondon.ca.

3 Custom hand-painted Brush-stroke **TABLE LAMP,** from $475 US, Jana Bek Design, janabek.com.

4 Wool **RUNNER,** $1,345, Elte, elte.com.

5 Tall **BOOTS** in Hunter Green, $165, Hunter Original, ca.hunterboots.com.

6 Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams velvet Hunter **CHAISE LONGUE** in Dark Green, $3,456, Elte, elte.com.

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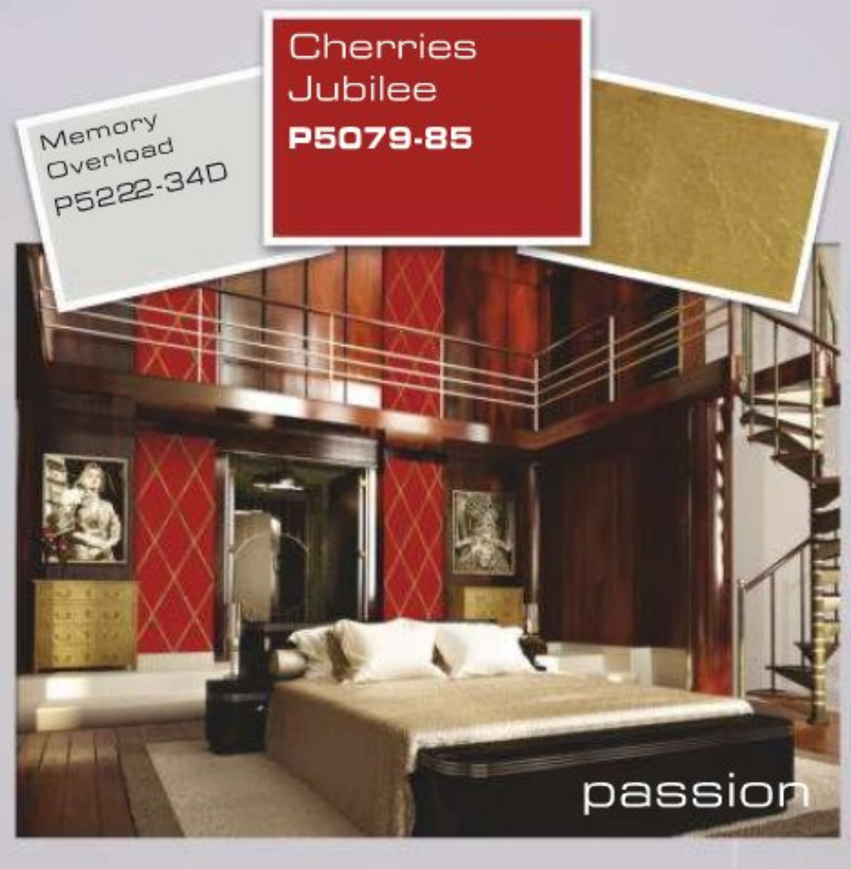

HOW TO

maintain wooden floors

Everything you need to know to keep hardwood flooring in good condition for generations to come. **PRODUCER** MARY LEVITSKI

In recent years, wooden flooring has reached further than it ever has before, namely into traditionally tile-only areas like kitchens and entryways. Driven by people's desire for a seamless flow from room to room, this trend means hardwood is subject to increased wear and moisture. Depending on the level of exposure, water and other liquids can cause wood to discolour, warp, crack or rot. You should minimize direct moisture, using water very sparingly when cleaning and wiping spills promptly. The good news is that hardwood, whether solid or engineered, is protected these days with a plastic-like polyurethane coating. However, scratching can compromise the finish, so keep surface dirt in check and avoid wearing shoes (particularly high heels) inside.

consistency is key

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

Wood is easily affected by the air around it, so aim to keep the temperature and humidity levels in your home as consistent as possible. Avoid a change of more than 3°C on any given day and use a central or stand-alone humidifier in the winter to replicate the moisture-rich air of the warmer months.

CHOOSING A CLEANER

Overly acidic or alkaline wood cleaners may ruin your floor's finish, while oil-based products can leave a filmy residue and actually attract dust. Look for pH-neutral, residue-free solutions.

DO

Protect floors by attaching felt pads to furniture feet and laying rugs in high-traffic areas.

DON'T

Use all-rubber rug pads, which can dull the wood's finish; opt for combination felt and rubber ones instead.

care schedule

FOLLOW THE TIMELINE BELOW TO KEEP YOUR WOODEN FLOORS LOOKING GREAT LONG-TERM.

Daily: Remove surface dirt before it causes scratching by vacuuming with a hard-floor attachment or sweeping with a dry microfibre mop.

Weekly: Mop with a specialty cleaner in small sections to avoid moisture sitting on the surface for too long.

Every 3 months: Bring back shine and fill in little scratches by polishing with a water-based product.

EXPERT TIP

"When you mop, use a back and forth motion, going with the grain, to avoid that hazy, streaky look."

–MELISSA MAKER, FOUNDER, CLEANMYSPACE.COM

floor scores

Cleaners that are tough on dirt but gentle on hardwood.

SPRAY
A long-standing expert on wooden floor cleaning, Bona offers a non-toxic, residue-free formula.

Bona Hardwood Floor **CLEANER,** $10, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

SQUIRT
Squeeze this almond-scented liquid directly onto the floor and mop up.

Method Squirt + Mop Wood Floor **CLEANER,** $7, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

TWO-IN-ONE
This mop with a replaceable pad and cleaner cartridge speeds up cleaning.

WetJet **MOP** with Wood Floor cleaner, $22, Swiffer, swiffer.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

HE FIGHTS DIRTY *no matter how dirty* DIRTY IS.

NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE, TOUGH MESSES DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHEN MR. CLEAN'S MAGIC ERASER IS PART OF YOUR CLEAN ROUTINE.

WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.

Wet before use. A rinse is required for surfaces that come in direct contact with food. Use as directed.

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QUEBEC CITY

EDITOR'S ITINERARY: Old Quebec

Style at Home managing editor Catherine Therrien braves the cold to get a taste of this UNESCO World Heritage Site in its element during the annual winter carnival.

Day 1

To fully experience Quebec City's rich history, you must stay at the **Fairmont Le Château Frontenac (6)** – even if only for one night. Located in the heart of Old Quebec atop Cape Diamond, the 123-year-old castle-like hotel exudes charm and character in every possible way. When you check in, take a few minutes to admire the stunningly designed lobby, with its ice blue coffered ceiling, numerous vintage chandeliers, intricate woodwork and brass detailing. Once you've unpacked and geared up for the cold weather, head to the north end of the boardwalk just outside the hotel to enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of the **St. Lawrence River.** Then take the Breakneck (*Casse-Cou*) Stairs or hop on the funicular to descend to the **Quartier Petit Champlain (4)** in the Lower Town (*Basse-Ville*). The pedestrian-only cobblestone main street is jampacked with souvenir shops, one-of-a-kind boutiques – **Amimoc (3)** sells the most beautiful handmade moccasins – and quaint restaurants. Stop for lunch at **Le Lapin Sauté,** a delightful little eatery with a creative menu. Step out of your comfort zone and try their rabbit lasagna. Head to **La Fudgerie** to top off your meal. The boutique has 80 flavours of fudge, such as crème brûlée and salted caramel, making it a challenge to pick just one. Don't miss a cool *trompe l'oeil* mural during your stroll through the area.

If you happen to be in town between January 29 and February 14, enjoy

PHOTOGRAPHY, SHUTTERSTOCK (FALLS), ISTOCKPHOTO (HOTEL, CREPE), MATIAS GARABEDIAN (SNOW SCULPTURE), AGE FOTOSTOCK (BONHOMME), ALAMY (QUARTIER)

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a host of activities at the **Quebec Winter Carnival,** from snow tubing to night parades. Spend the afternoon at the **Plains of Abraham** taking in marvellous works of art made from giant blocks of snow for the **International Snow Sculpture Competition (5)** – a carnival classic. While exploring, look for the sugar shack and indulge in maple taffy on a stick. Return to the hotel for a relaxing night in. Treat yourself to room service and dine at your own private table in the comfort of a plush robe and slippers.

Day 2

Start your day by devouring perhaps the biggest crepe you've ever seen at **Casse-Crêpe Breton (2).** It offers both savoury and sweet options – I opted for the strawberries with chocolate drizzle. Walk off your breakfast with a jaunt to Quebec-based fashion retailer **Simons (7).** Check out the home collection on the mezzanine level for well-priced stylish wares. For a spectacular winter scene, take a 20-minute drive east to picturesque **Montmorency Falls Park (1).** The 83-metre-high waterfall can be viewed from ground level, a cable car or the suspension bridge. The main attraction, though, is the famous sugarloaf (*pain de sucre*), a massive loaf-shaped ice cone that forms near the base of the falls. Head back to town and have a bite to eat at **Aux Anciens Canadiens** – a tourist favourite for old-fashioned Quebec specialties. The tourtière and maple syrup pie are must-haves. Then enjoy a few hours of outdoor ice skating (skates are available for rent) at **Place d'Youville,** a historic square. Finish off the evening at Fairmont's **1608 bar (8)** and savour the best local cheeses and wines from around the world.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ISTOCKPHOTO (CHEESE)

PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP

Fairmont Le Château Frontenac
fairmont.com/frontenac-quebec

St. Lawrence River & Place d'Youville
quebecregion.com

Quartier Petit Champlain
quartierpetit-champlain.com

Amimoc
amimoc.ca

Le Lapin Sauté
lapinsaute.com

La Fudgerie
lafudgerie.com

Quebec Winter Carnival & International Snow Sculpture Competition
carnaval.qc.ca

Plains of Abraham
ccbn-nbc.gc.ca

Casse-Crêpe Breton
cassecrepe-breton.com

Simons
simons.ca

Montmorency Falls Park
sepaq.com

Aux Anciens Canadiens
auxanciens-canadiens.qc.ca

1608
1608baravin.com

hand warmers

▲ HBC Shearling **MITTENS** in Camel, $120, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

haute hat

► Word Logo Pom-pom **TOQUE** in True Black, $30, Gap, gapcanada.ca.

comfy skates

◄ Cameo by Jackson CS112 Fleece **FIGURE SKATES,** $70, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Stay warm and toasty while exploring this historic city in the Great White North.

what to PACK

cold-weather coat

▲ Shelburne **PARKA** in Red, $775, Canada Goose, canadagoose.com.

cozy socks

► Womens Pop Cabin **SOCKS** in Lodge Red, $19 per pack of 2, Roots, roots.com.

stylish carryall

► Saxby **MESSENGER BAG** in Marone, $335, Brave Leather, braveleather.com.

PRODUCER ERYN CHESNEY

kitchen cravings

This issue, we round up products that are sure to make celebrating Valentine's Day that much sweeter.

1 EASY BAKE

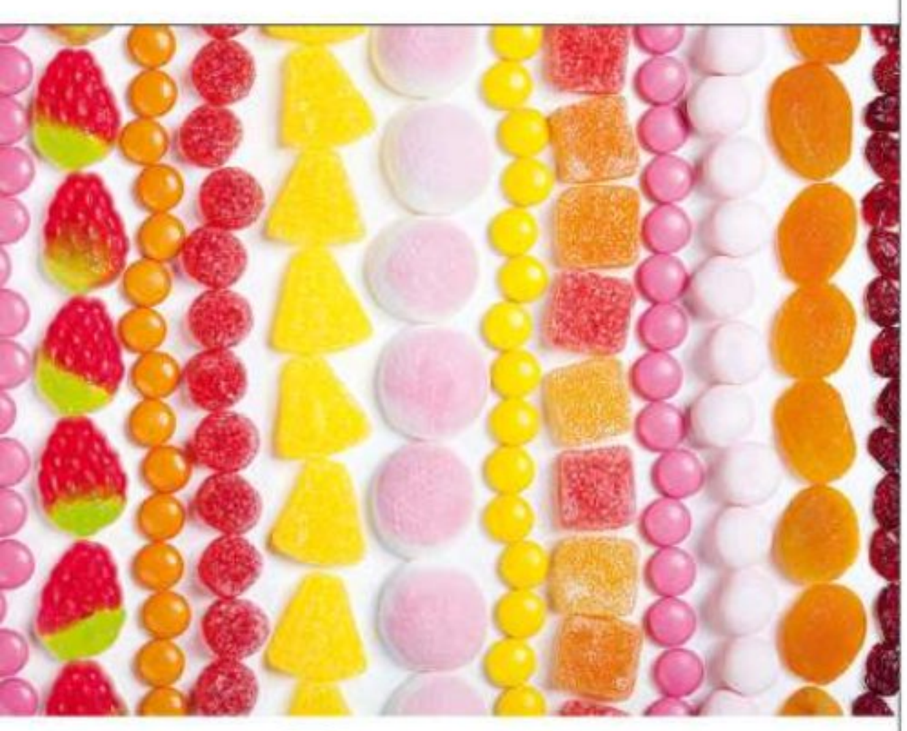
Whip up a batch of biscuits for your valentine with this cute cookie cut-and-stamp kit. It's easy to use and the handy storage tube means it won't clutter up your cupboard.

Chef'n **COOKIE STAMPS,** $12 per 5-piece set, Danica Imports, danicaimports.com.

2 RAISE THE BAR

Elevate your mixology skills with pomegranate and elderflower sparkling water. With its pretty blush colour and pleasant flavour, it'll make your cocktails look as sweet as they taste.

Bottlegreen Pomegranate & Elderflower **SPARKLING WATER,** $2.50, Loblaws, loblaws.com.



3 SWEET SHOPPING

IKEA does it again! The Swedish retail giant is now offering pick-and-mix candy stations in all stores across Canada. The European-imported sweets are free of trans fats, high-fructose corn syrup and GMOs. Best of all: no assembly required.

Lördagsgodis **CANDY,** $2 per 100 g, IKEA, ikea.ca.

TREATS TWO WAYS

Whether you prefer to order them online or make them in your own kitchen, macarons are a delicious way to say "I love you" this Valentine's Day.

Pretty in Pink **MACARONS,** $27 per box of 12, Soirette, soirette.com; silicone **MACARON SHEET,** $17, Trudeau, trudeau.ca.

cocktail pick

FRESH BERRY KISS

- 4 cups fresh raspberries
- 6 sprigs fresh basil
- ½ cup vodka
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 bottle Yellow Tail Red Moscato Bubbles
- Ice

Muddle the raspberries and basil in a large pitcher. Stir in the vodka, lemon juice and Red Moscato Bubbles. Pour the mixture through a sieve into a carafe; discard the solids. Serve over ice.

Red Moscato Bubbles **SPARKLING WINE,** $14, Yellow Tail, yellowtailwine.com.

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MICHAEL STRAHAN
META USER

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chocolate cherry ganache tartlets

We know how lovely it is to receive a box of *chocolate-covered cherries* from your sweetheart, but we're raising the bar and offering a *supersized version.* With rich ganache and sour cherry jam, this decadent tartlet has all the same great flavours but in a more shareable size – if you're willing.

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING TANYA ENG

PHOTOGRAPHY JOE KIM

PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

INGREDIENTS

MAKES SIX 4" TARTLETS

- 1¼ cups 35% whipping cream, divided
- 200 g chopped white chocolate
- 150 g amaretti cookies (about 20)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 5 tbsp cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 3 tbsp ice water
- 200 g chopped dark chocolate
- ¾ cup morello or sour cherry jam
- Cocoa powder for dusting

DIRECTIONS

Bring ½ cup of the cream to a boil in a small saucepan; remove from the heat and pour into a large bowl. Stir in the white chocolate until melted and smooth. Place the bowl in the refrigerator and chill for 2 hours or until cold.

Meanwhile, combine the amaretti cookies and flour in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until the mixture resembles a fine crumb. Add the butter and pulse to a loose crumble. Add the water and process until the mixture is just combined and forms a soft dough. Transfer the dough to a floured surface and knead into a large disc. Roll out the dough to a ¼" thickness and cut out circles large enough to fill four 4" tartlet tins; press the dough into the sides and bottom of each tin to cover evenly, trimming any excess dough. Re-roll the excess dough to fill two additional tartlet tins. Prick the dough all over with a fork and transfer the tins to a baking sheet. Bake at 400°F for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

Place the dark chocolate in a medium heatproof bowl and set aside. Bring the remaining cream to a boil in a small saucepan and pour over the chocolate; stir until the chocolate is melted and the mixture is glossy and smooth. Spread 2 tablespoons of the cherry jam over the bottom of each baked tart shell. Top the jam with enough of the dark chocolate ganache to fill each shell; place the tartlets in the refrigerator for 2 hours or until the chocolate is set.

Using an electric hand mixer, whip the chilled white chocolate and cream until stiff peaks form. Transfer to a piping bag fitted with a medium round attachment and pipe seven peaks onto each tartlet; dust with cocoa powder. Keep the tartlets chilled until ready to serve.

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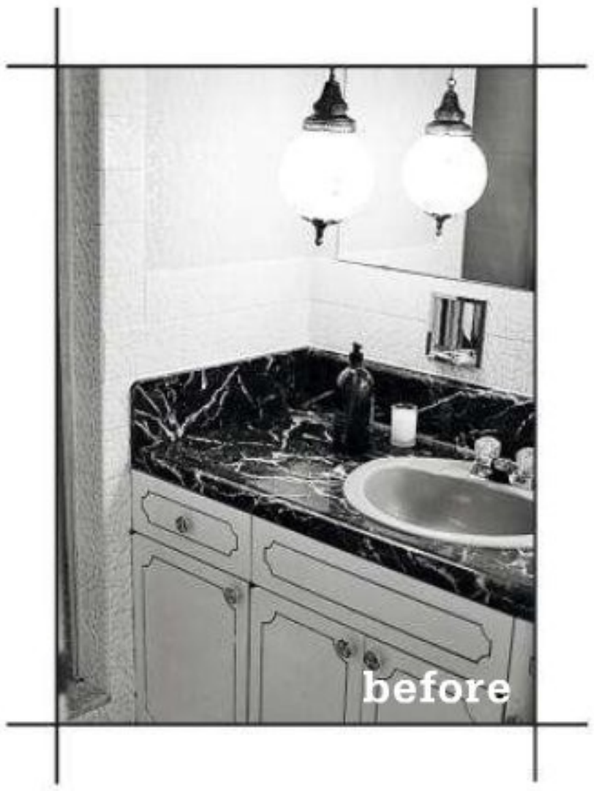


dream *world*

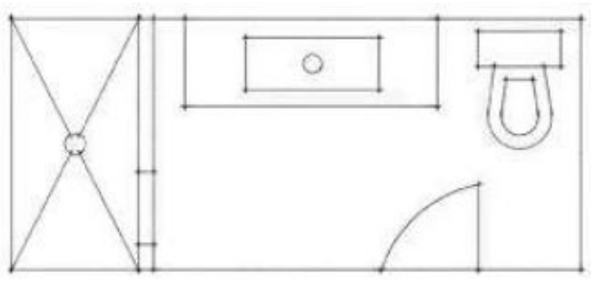
Faced with transforming an outdated bathroom into an inspiring space for her son, a designer decides the sky's the limit.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ASHLEY CAPP

PROBLEM
An unsightly green bathroom

SOLUTION
Refresh the interior with contemporary fixtures and eye-catching wallpaper

FLOOR PLAN
50 sq. ft.



RIGHT To infuse the bathroom with warmth and interest, homeowner and designer Sarah Walker selected an exotic wood veneer for the vanity. "Its clean, modern lines complement the sink style and allow the wallpaper to take centre stage," she says. The porcelain chevron-patterned flooring was cut and laid by Sarah's husband, Graham, using 12" x 24" tiles, which resemble vein-cut travertine and only cost $2.50 per square foot.

DESIGN, The Curated House by Sarah Walker, thecuratedhouse.com; Cole & Son Nuvolette **WALLPAPER, WALLPAPER INSTALLATION,** Kravet Canada; custom **VANITY,** The Curated House by Sarah Walker; **SINK,** Muti Kitchen & Bath; **FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre; **FLOOR TILES** (customized), The Tile Shoppe.

Every time designer Sarah Walker stepped into the guest bathroom of her family home in Oakville, Ont., its distressing all-green colour scheme would cloud her senses. "It was honestly a time capsule of the late '60s and early '70s," she says. "The previous owners threw every mismatched design detail they could into the room. I think we counted seven different shades of green." Finally, in 2013, after four years of tolerating the clashing decor, she and her husband, Graham, couldn't take it any longer – it was time to refurbish. The couple decided to transform the space into a beautiful bathroom for their 13-year-old son, Noah, to complement his new bedroom, which would soon take form across the hall.

The planning process

Looking past the bathroom's busy aesthetic, Sarah knew the layout itself was functional: The shower, vanity and toilet were already well placed, which meant she was able to focus on finding decor inspiration instead. "The etched-look cloud wallpaper was the perfect starting point," she says. "It's as if the bathroom is a portal to a dream world. The entire influence felt right." Since the wallpaper required book matching, Sarah had it professionally installed. Next up was the chevron-patterned flooring, which Graham carefully cut and laid himself. "He deserves the husband of the year award for that one," Sarah says with a laugh.

The design decisions

Whether showcasing unexpected hues or rich textures, the most remarkable rooms are often the ones that have taken a dramatic leap of faith. "I love a sense of quirk and fantasy," says Sarah. "Powder rooms or smaller baths like this are a brilliant opportunity to depart from what you'd normally do and be a little more daring." With that in mind, the designer painted the ceiling and trim a striking charcoal hue and introduced warmth through a custom exotic wood-veneered vanity that perfectly juxtaposes the cool grey statement wallpaper.

The result

Sarah is thrilled with how the space turned out, especially the look of the wallpaper, since it connects Noah to beauty and art every single day. "When you're tucked away in a bathroom, it's one of the only times you're by yourself," she says. "So why not have your head in the clouds?"

FOR A SEAMLESS LOOK, SARAH WRAPPED A PIECE OF WALLPAPER AROUND THE WALL PLATE, MAKING SURE THE PATTERN MATCHED UP PERFECTLY.

ABOVE The sleek chrome faucet and nautical-style sconces were budget finds. "The lights have a timeless look that's not completely ubiquitous, and the mercury glass shades give a sophisticated glow," says Sarah.

MIRROR, IKEA; **SCONCE,** Lamps Plus.

RIGHT "I'm a huge fan of painted ceilings," says the designer. "It creates a sense that the entire space has been considered." The dark charcoal shade is also a softer alternative to stark black.

Down Pipe 26 **CEILING & TRIM PAINT,** Farrow & Ball.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

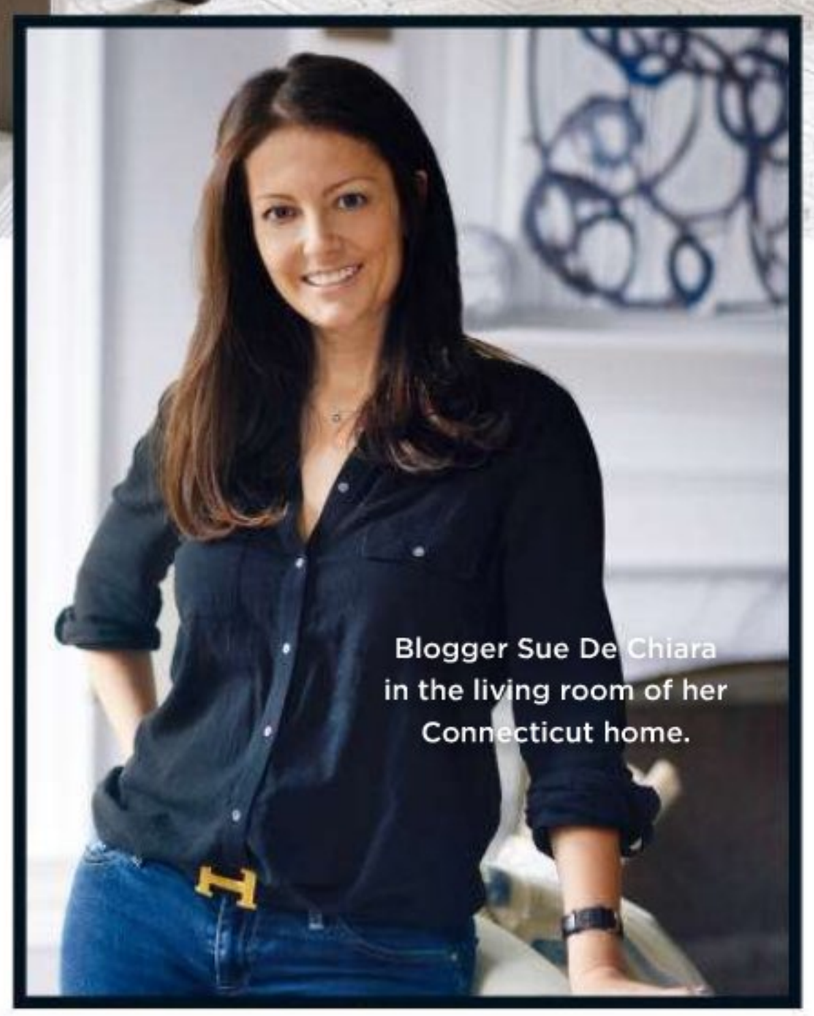
sue de chiara of the zhush

The dream job: How an amateur decor enthusiast made a career out of what she loves.

PRODUCER SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** NICOLE COHEN

BLOGGER BEGINNINGS

It all started eight years ago when she was redecorating her home in Westchester County, N.Y. "I was working with a designer who was introducing me to magazines for inspiration and trying to push me out of my comfort zone," says Sue De Chiara, the blogger behind the popular decor-inspiration destination and online store The Zhush (pronounced "je" + "oosh"). "When I started looking up designers I liked, I stumbled upon some blogs, which were much easier to email and share." This was pre-Pinterest, before blogs became ubiquitous, and Sue decided she wanted her own curated collection of inspiration. So with her brother's help, she signed up for a blog. "It was mostly for myself – I didn't have any personal info on there," she says. But then comments started rolling in, and Sue was encouraged. "I was off and running. I refined my taste, polished the blog and in 2009 launched The Zhush. My first post was about Burberry infinity scarves." Since her start, Sue moved to a new house in Connecticut in 2014 and wrote about the design – which she did with the help of designer Lauren Muse of Muse Interiors.



Blogger Sue De Chiara in the living room of her Connecticut home.

MAKEOVER CHALLENGES

In the fall of 2014, Sue joined Calling It Home's One Room Challenge, a six-week series in which design enthusiasts make over a space, chronicling on their blogs the successes and setbacks they encounter. For her first time participating, Sue took on a tall order: renovating the kitchen of her newly purchased home right before moving in. "We were scheduled to move in right when the challenge ended, so I thought it was perfect timing," says Sue. "But that's not how the real world works. It was an enormous project, and contractors don't care about my move-in or blog deadlines. Throughout the whole thing, I kept repeating, 'I shouldn't have done this. I shouldn't have done this.'" Against all odds, Sue finished on schedule (save for some furniture that had yet to arrive), and though she loves the results, she learned her lesson. "For the 2015 fall challenge, I took on only a small guest bathroom, I have a very clear work-back plan, and I'm not moving. I don't want to jinx myself," she says, "but it's going well."

"To-do lists and work-back schedules are key to successful makeovers."

PHOTOGRAPHY, INSTAGRAM.COM/ZHUSH (POWDER ROOM, BEDROOM)

ELEMENTS OF SURPRISE

"Bold, whimsical wallpaper is perfect in small doses on ceilings or covering rooms you don't necessarily spend tons of time in – it's a nice surprise," says Sue, who keeps the walls of her main living areas neutral, but has fun in petite spaces.

POWDER ROOM WALLS
French-inspired lotus wallpaper and brass details make this pretty powder room feel like a true escape.

BEDROOM CEILING
Midnight blue constellation-look wallpaper on the ceiling of Sue's son's bedroom adds depth and whimsy.

FRONT HALL CLOSET INTERIOR
"It was a bit cost-prohibitive to wallpaper all the closets," says Sue, "so I did the one that'd be seen the most."

SPLURGES & SAVES

"Splurge on a stunning light fixture and a really great rug, and you can get away with saving on a lot of other things," advises Sue on budgeting for decor. One of her favourite items to save on is artwork. "Find prints on Etsy or get creative and make your own," she adds. The artwork on display in Sue's place, such as the silhouettes of her three kids along the stairs in the front hall, is personal and special to the family. The portraits were created by artist Carter Kustera with Benjamin Moore paints.

"I don't like the look of dark wood on walls, but I love the look of *dark-painted* wood."

PAINT PAL

"I love paint," says Sue of the best way to quickly and inexpensively refresh a room. "On walls, on furniture – paint is a great option because if it doesn't work out, you can just make it white again." The butler's pantry is a perfect example of paint saving the day: "When my husband and I looked at the house before buying it, the wooden cabinets in the butler's pantry were stained a dark mahogany. They were very masculine and stodgy," she says. "I instantly knew I wanted to paint them a very dark high-gloss blue, taking the pantry from a men's club cigar room to a fresh, bold jewel-box space."

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

The key to creating a home office you actually *want* to spend time in? "Surround yourself with the fun little things you love but aren't to the tastes of the people you live with," says Sue. "Your home office is where you get to express yourself." In hers, Sue indulged in girlie accessories, which she shared on Instagram, including a bedazzled-lips telephone and an Yves Saint Laurent print.

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Lipidol is a range of six new oils for daily skincare. Featured product: Lipidol Cleansing Body Oil 200ml. Washes off dirt without stripping the skin's natural oily layer. Available at Walmart and walmart.ca at $8.97. lipidol.com

high OR low?

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We transform an attic space into a stylish dressing room on a ready-to-wear and an haute couture budget. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL NANGREAVES

HIGH & LOW Pink geometric-patterned **SHOES,** John Fluevog, fluevog.com; **SHELVES, PICTURE LEDGES** (used as shoe storage), IKEA, ikea.ca.

$400

1 Carl Robinson Edition 5 Reflect Edgware **WALLPAPER** in CB54400, $200 per double roll, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crown-wallpaper.com.

$429

2 Large faux shagreen **BOX** in Seal Grey, Absolutely, absolutelyinc.com.

$319

3 Lacquered silver-plated brass Traditional Mirrored **TRAY,** Ethan Allen, ethanallen.ca.

$1,349

4 Bernhardt Jet Set maple-veneered MDF Door **CABINET** with gold-leafed MDF base, Zilli Home Interiors, zillihome.com.

$3,243

5 Hand-knotted bamboo silk Opulence **RUG** in Silver, 8′ x 10′, Imperial Carpet and Home, carpetandhome.com.

$2,220

6 Track-armed winged **CHAISE LONGUE** with polyester Venice fabric in 61 and nailhead trim in Silver, Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

$295

7 Designers Guild lambswool-blend Zari Graphite **THROW** in Grey, Putti Fine Furnishings, putti.ca.

$500

8 Bonaldo painted-steel Fortuny **SIDE TABLE** in Glossy White, Suite 22 Interiors, suite22.ca.

$1,850

9 Vintage Italian ornate carved gilded-wood **MIRROR,** Carrocel, carrocel.com.

$200

1 Carl Robinson Edition 9 Romantique Ida **WALLPAPER** in CB90009, $100 per double roll, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crown-wallpaper.com.

$159

2 Medium lacquered-wood Eggshell Inlay **BOX** with mosaic mallard eggshell pieces and crackle finish, Ethan Allen, ethanallen.ca.

$13

3 Painted-aluminum **TRAY,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$282

4 Particleboard Sektion **WALL CABINET** in White, 36″ x 15″ x 30″, $55, fibreboard Ringhult **DOORS** in High Gloss White (customized), 18″ x 30″, $84 each, birch Skäralid **BASE** (customized), 15″ x 30″, $59, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$1,317

5 Hand-knotted wool and bamboo silk Atrium **RUG** in C6 Beige, 8′ x 10′, Imperial Carpet and Home, carpetandhome.com.

$639

6 Stocksund **CHAISE LONGUE** with cotton-blend Nolhaga fabric in Gray-Beige and stained-beech legs in Black, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$175

7 Klippan lambswool Samba **THROW** in Grey, Likely General, 647-351-4590.

$70

8 Lacquered painted-rubberwood Lamsa **SIDE TABLE** in White, Jysk, jysk.ca.

$1,489

9 Gilded cast-resin Chinoiserie **MIRROR** in Gold, Ethan Allen, ethanallen.ca.

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(and yes, she's wearing them)

For coupons and your free sample† of our incredible bladder leak underwear, go to alwaysdiscreet.ca

So bladder leaks can feel like no big deal. always discreet

†while supplies last.

Create a spritzing station by showing off shapely perfume bottles on a pretty tray.

Fill an awkwardly slanted wall with display ledges and shelves.

IF THE SHOE FITS

Skip art in your dressing room – use your best-loved shoes instead, employing floating shelves and picture ledges as display spaces. The pieces come in different sizes, which makes them ideal for an irregular-shaped wall like this one.

Particleboard Lack **SHELVES,** 75", $30 each, fibreboard Mosslanda **PICTURE LEDGES,** from $13, IKEA, ikea.ca; mirrored **BOX,** $25, HomeSense, homesense.ca; laquered-wood Mid-Century **JEWELLERY BOX** in White Lacquer, 15" x 11" x 8", $239, West Elm, westelm.com.

go longue

French for "long chair," a **chaise longue** offers an elongated seat to rest one's feet for a luxuriously relaxed pose. It's no wonder this adaptation of the daybed, which dates as far back as ancient Egypt, has been popular among royalty for centuries. So do like a queen and make one a fixture in your dressing quarters. We can't think of a better way to contemplate your outfit of the day!

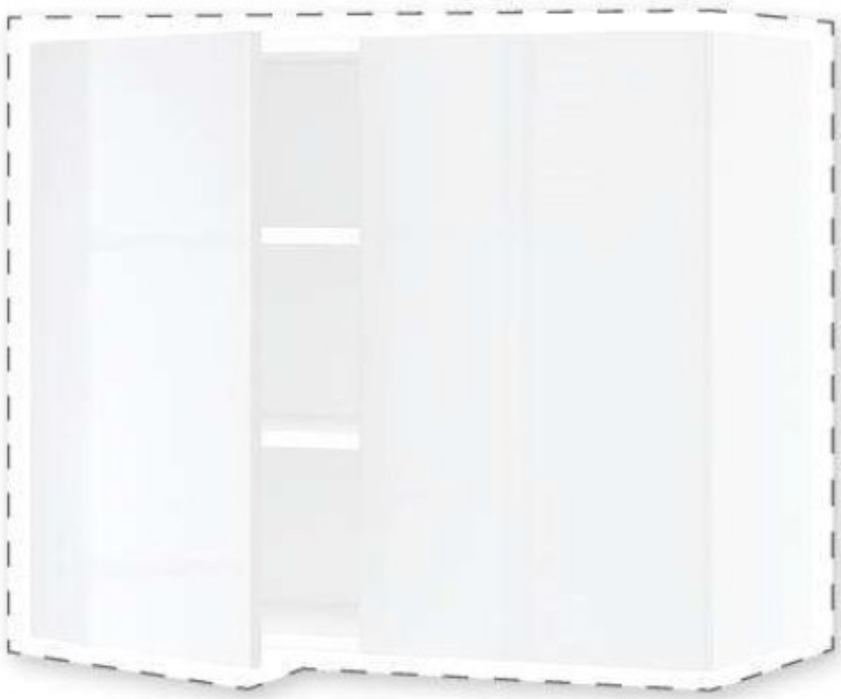
turn on

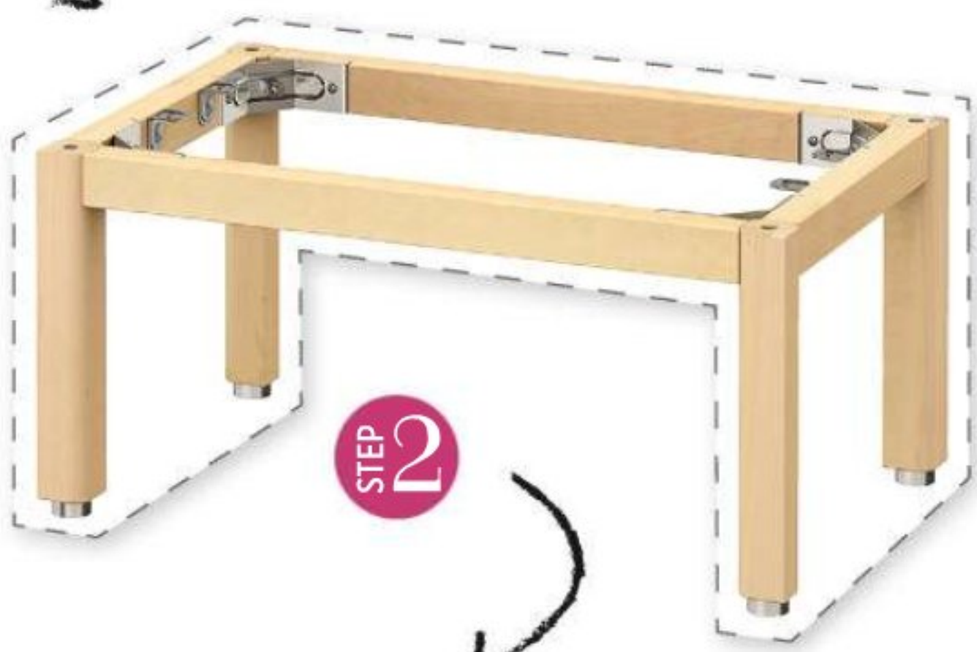
The traditional wooden turned-leg side table gets an attractive modern update. This version boasts a fresh white-painted finish, which is lacquered for a glam effect.

Lacquered painted-rubberwood Lamsa **SIDE TABLE** in White, $70, Jysk, jysk.ca.

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com

3 EASY STEPS TO CREATING A STYLISH CABINET ON THE CHEAP.





Step 1 Assemble the Sektion cabinet and attach the Ringhult doors as per the manufacturer's instructions. Install two Utrusta push latches.

Step 2 Assemble the Skäralid base. Measure and cut 6" off the bottom of each leg using a handsaw. Spray-paint the entire base gold.

Step 3 To make the decorative pulls, use pliers to open each ring, feed onto a screw eye and squeeze shut. Feed a grommet followed by a washer onto each screw eye. Spray-paint the pulls gold. Measure one-third of the way down from each door's centre and drill a hole the length of the screw eye. Screw the pulls into the holes.

Particleboard Sektion **WALL CABINET** in White, 36" x 15" x 30", $55, fibreboard Ringhult **DOORS** in High Gloss White, 18" x 30", $84 each, birch Skäralid **BASE,** 15" x 30", $59, Utrusta **PUSH LATCHES,** $7 per pair, IKEA, ikea.ca; **RINGS, SCREW EYES, WASHERS & GROMMETS** (used to make pulls), $15, Rust-Oleum Specialty Metallic **SPRAY PAINT** in Gold, $9, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

FLOWER POWER

Our dressing room gets its punch from the sloped ceiling's **bold floral wallpaper**. You can mimic this feature, whether you're looking to splurge or save.

HIGH

$200

Carl Robinson Edition 5 Reflect Edgware in CB54400, per double roll, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

$163

Anna French Wild Flora Bouquet in Gold, per double roll, through designers, Thibaut, thibautdesign.com.

LOW

$100

Carl Robinson Edition 9 Romantique Ida in CB90009, per double roll, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

in GOOD TASTE

An out-of-date kitchen gets a fresh, modern makeover.

TEXT ERYN CHESNEY | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ASHLEY CAPP

The drab and dated kitchen in Nicole and Nial Hennessy's Mississauga, Ont., home was so in need of a makeover, they were willing to adopt just about any look. "Someone could have painted the room hot pink and I would have been grateful for the change," says Nicole. So they handed all their trust to designer Trish Johnston, who they knew could give them a modern and functional kitchen. The only requests from the easygoing couple? Fresh white cabinetry for Nicole and a built-in garbage and recycling system for Nial – easy peasy for a pro like Trish. Here's how she turned the space's cons into pros and created a scheme they could love forever.

before

The extra-long island houses pullout garbage and recycling bins.

PROBLEM **AWKWARD LAYOUT**

SOLUTION "When I first saw the space, it was apparent that the layout was not working," says designer Trish Johnston. "So I redesigned the kitchen with a working triangle in mind to make it more functional." She replaced the peninsula with an island and changed its orientation to run down the centre of the room, allowing her to incorporate a large 10-foot-long version, complete with an undermount sink, dishwasher and tons of extra storage. Trish also created a command centre between two banks of cabinetry to give homeowners Nicole and Nial Hennessy a spot for charging electronics, paying bills or displaying self-serve appetizers and drinks for guests.

Find more issues at
magazinesdownload.com

Bright green splashes and touches of texture bring the outdoors in.

PROBLEM **SEPARATED SEATING**

SOLUTION The old kitchen had a small table at one end of the room that the Hennessys used for eating meals, but the arrangement felt disconnected. Trish wanted to create a way for Nicole and Nial's son, Nathan, 5, to be able to participate in mealtime prep, so she got rid of the table and chairs and incorporated a few stools at the island. "It's a great place for him to colour or play while Mom and Dad are working in the kitchen," says Trish. By the window, two armchairs serve as a spot for morning coffee or evening cocktails. "They really soften the hard lines in the space and give it a homey, relaxed vibe," says Trish. With the accompanying vibrant wallpaper and jute rug, the area almost evokes a mini sitting room.

PROBLEM
NO PERSONALITY

SOLUTION The Hennessys' kitchen overlooks a verdant backyard and pool, but the serene view was lost among the dark and dull finishes. "I'm a firm believer in bringing the outdoors in," says Trish. To liven up the space, she chose a durable light grey faux bois porcelain tile for the floor and glossy white subway tiles to run floor-to-ceiling behind the range. To counter all the white, Trish chose a bold wallpaper. "The cheery green pattern is so fresh and inspiring," she says. Hits of natural texture and gold-toned hardware tie the whole look together. "It's all big box but doesn't feel like it," explains Trish.

PROBLEM **DATED DECOR**

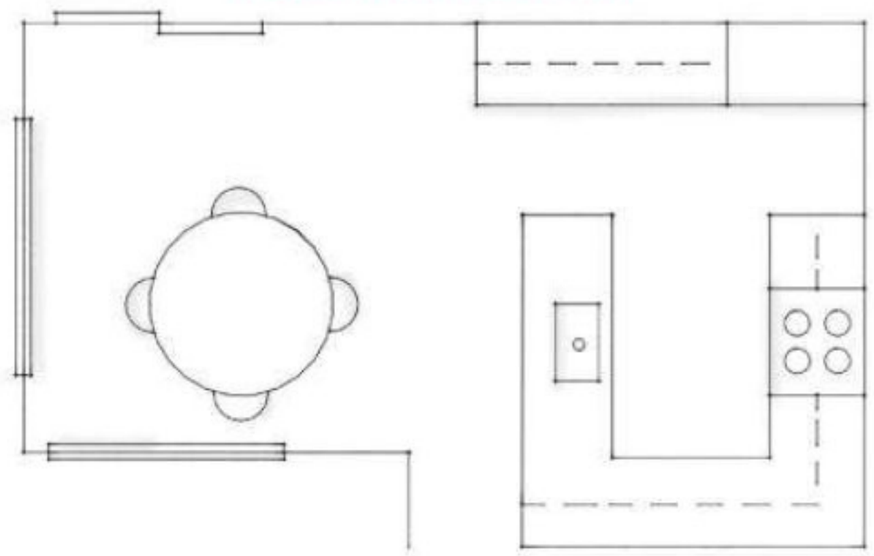
SOLUTION While the kitchen didn't exactly lack cabinet space, it did lack style and sophistication. "We spruced up the room by using IKEA's Sektion/Bodbyn cabinetry throughout, but in white for the island and in grey for the pantry wall," says Trish. The contrasting colours help define the kitchen's two zones: work and storage.

A pair of glass-fronted cabinets provides display space and a touch of glam.

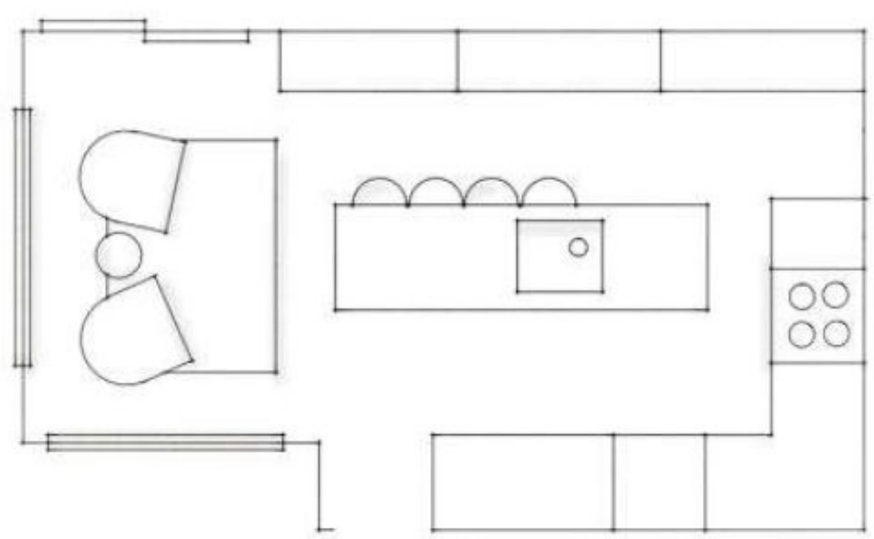
PROBLEM **LACK OF LIGHT**

SOLUTION "There were a number of inefficient and dated light fixtures in the room," says Trish. "We ditched everything and started over again." Pot lights were installed throughout, as well as a pair of sconces to serve as task lighting in the built-in command centre. And while most designers would choose to hang statement pendant lights over the island, Trish decided to leave the space bare. "I didn't want to obscure the view of the gorgeous backyard – anything hung there would have interrupted it," she says.

FLOOR PLAN BEFORE



FLOOR PLAN AFTER



DESIGN, Trish Johnston Design, trishjohnstondesign.com; **WALLPAPER,** Hygge & West; **KITCHEN INSTALLATION,** through IKEA Installation Services, **CABINETRY,** Caesarstone quartz **COUNTERTOPS** in Blizzard White, through IKEA, **APPLIANCES, SINK, FAUCET, ARMCHAIRS, STOOLS, DRAPERY, SHELF, BRACKETS, RUG, MIRROR, SCONCES, CABINETRY HARDWARE, DRAWER INSERT, TEA TOWELS, NAPKINS,** IKEA; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Tonic Living; **BACKSPLASH & FLOOR TILES,** Creekside Tile.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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DOUBLING UP

Brimming with luxurious materials and industrial swagger, an edgy-meets-elegant makeover sees the union of two lofts.

TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

In the living room of this Toronto loft designed by Ryan Martin and Amy Kent of Croma Design, a standout fireplace surround made from 12 feet of hot-rolled steel creates architectural drama. Modern furnishings, hits of brass and pared-back artwork establish a look that's at once livable and luxurious.

DESIGN, Croma Design, cromadesign.com; **CONTRACTING, MILLWORK** (throughout), **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** Parallel General Contractor; Decorators White CC-20 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **SOFA,** Montauk Sofa; **ARMCHAIRS, SIDE TABLES, RUG, FLOOR LAMP, MAGAZINE RACK,** Avenue Road; **COFFEE TABLE,** white **BOWL,** Martha Sturdy; **BENCH,** Room & Board; **FIREPLACE,** Fireplace Concepts; brushed-oak **FLOORING** (throughout), Kentwood Floors; **PRINTS,** Art Squared; **CHANDELIER,** Hubbardton Forge; **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROW, BOWL** (on side table), brass **TRAY,** Elte.

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com

RIGHT The dining room's existing bar niche was updated with a Caesarstone-topped cabinet and upper shelves. An artistic take on utilitarian fluorescents over the dining table, the light fixture offers striking sculptural presence – but no harshness. "It uses LED bulbs, so it emits a warm glow," says Amy.

Custom **DINING TABLE,** Elemental Flooring; DINING **CHAIRS,** IKEA; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Roll & Hill; **VASES,** Crate and Barrel.

ABOVE The loft's decor is all about sharp contrast and cohesion, exemplified in the long steel shelves that echo the steel-based dining table, as well as the doors of the nine-foot-long sideboard, which are the same as the ones used for the kitchen cabinetry.

Custom **SIDEBOARD & SHELVES,** Parallel General Contractor; **PITCHER, CANDLESTICKS,** CB2.

In sitcoms, there's always the jokester perpetually getting locked out of his apartment in the hallway wearing socks – or worse, far less. In real life, however, hallway humour is not so funny. Take this husband and wife who had to go out to the corridor every time they needed something from next door. They own (and inhabit) adjacent lofts in Toronto's historic Merchandise Building. Commensurate with early 20th-century Chicago-style architecture, the building has hefty bones, high ceilings and factory windows – enthralling features that meant moving elsewhere to gain more space was out of the question. "Besides, the idea was always to merge the two units," says the husband, joking, "but in the meantime, we had the best guest suite in the city."

After owning the lofts for three years, the professional pair, who has a four-year-old daughter and six-year-old son, finally decided to fuse the 1,763- and 1,372-square-foot spaces. To bring the project from concept to fruition, they collaborated with Croma Design's savvy Ryan Martin and Amy Kent.

Building restrictions only allowed for a small opening between the suites, which was achieved by removing the kitchen and a small laundry closet from one unit, as well as reconfiguring the master bedroom. But it worked out perfectly. "It resulted in two separate zones: one for the family to relax in, the other for entertaining," explains Amy. Toys are relegated to the family room in one unit, while in the other, the slick living room with its stand-out hot-rolled-steel fireplace is enjoyed when the adults are entertaining.

Most important, the entire place is now free of its unappealing '90s decor: the beigey-yellow walls, cherry-stained floors and glut of black granite. Ryan says the makeover's mandate was "to keep the colour palette neutral and let the lofts' historical elements shine." He adds, "We wanted to find a balance between industrial and refined."

The living room's custom bookcases were so tall the contractor had to build them off-site and stack them here in components – but the extra effort was worth it. They're a huge improvement from the cluttered stand-alones that once lived in the loft.

LADDER, Putnam Rolling Ladder Co.; **LUMBAR CUSHIONS,** CB2.

"We wanted to find A BALANCE BETWEEN industrial and refined."

before

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RIGHT The weight of the kitchen's darkness is balanced by the light and airy envelope around it, from the white surrounding walls and ceiling to the glass pendant lights. The island is equipped with open shelves to store cookbooks, which offer a hint of colour.

COUNTERTOPS, Caesarstone Canada; marble **BACKSPLASH,** Ciot; **REFRIGERATOR, RANGE,** Sub-Zero and Wolf; **RANGE HOOD,** Tasco; **FAUCET,** Kohler; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Elte; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Restoration Hardware; **STORAGE BOXES,** IKEA.

ABOVE "We chose Caesarstone countertops because they're durable and easy to maintain, which is great for this family, who is constantly trying out new recipes from their many cookbooks," says Amy.

The designers replaced the boxy bulkheads with spiral ductwork and freshened the concrete ceiling with white paint ("We liked the imperfections that showed years of use and history," says Ryan) and – save for the most gossamer of blinds – left the windows undressed to let light flood in.

Meanwhile, injections of steel and elegantly executed industrial-style lighting pay homage to the building's warehouse roots. Dark floors, cabinetry and stone add warmth, as do shelves lined with the book-loving couple's library – it's all so chic and cultured, as the husband enthuses, "We still wake up with that feeling we can't believe we live here. We're absolutely thrilled with how everything turned out." And they don't even have to leave home to enjoy it.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Once dark and lacklustre, this Toronto house is transformed into an eclectic family home filled with character and light.

at first SIGHT

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The newly expanded entryway creates a great first impression. "As soon as you walk into the house, you get a sense of space and light," says designer Shirley Meisels. Carefully chosen accessories, such as a durable rug, comfy bench and sculptural umbrella stand, make the area practical.

DESIGN, MHouse, mhouseinc.com; Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **BENCH,** Jacaranda Tree; navy and white **RUG,** L'Atelier; **UMBRELLA STAND,** Dartford Home; **CLUTCH, BOOKS,** Elte.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY
ANGUS FERGUSSON

STYLING STACY BEGG

"NOTHING IS MATCHING, SO IT LOOKS LIKE *each piece was collected* OVER TIME."

A young couple leaving behind their condo in search of a home where they can start a family isn't an uncommon occurence. But finding a house on day one is. "It was the first place we saw, and we instantly knew we had to have it," says one of the homeowners. Located in uptown Toronto, the 1940s-era dwelling offered 1,200 square feet, three bedrooms and good bones that required little more than an aesthetic makeover.

The couple purchased the place in 2013 and hired designer Shirley Meisels to mastermind the update. Like their new home, she was option number one. "We'd seen her work online, and she was the first designer we met with," says one of the homeowners. "We clicked right away." The couple's vision for the space – "warm and comfortable with a cool vibe" – was in keeping

OPPOSITE In the living room, the homeowners flanked the fireplace with shelving units, which Shirley styled. "Some items on display are new, some are vintage; the effect is energetic and interesting," she says. "The shelves also provide space for books, artwork and bright pops of colour." The Lucite coffee table as well as the sofa and chair with open bases keep the room feeling light and airy.

SOFA, Urban Barn; **CHAIR** (customized), Casalife; custom **COFFEE TABLE,** Decorum Decorative Finds; **SHELVING UNITS,** Restoration Hardware; **RUG,** Paris **PRINT,** chartreuse **TOSS CUSHION,** Elte; feather **HEADDRESS,** SomAfrica; **MIRROR** (used as tray), West Elm; ikat-print **TOSS CUSHION,** Jacaranda Tree; tribal-print **TOSS CUSHION,** CB2.

BELOW Shirley turned the sunroom off the kitchen into an eating area with a small pedestal table and a custom L-shaped banquette.

DINING TABLE, EQ3; custom **BANQUETTE & BANQUETTE CUSHIONS,** MHouse; caneback **DINING CHAIR, PENDANT LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware; wire **DINING CHAIR, RUG,** Elte; **ROLLER SHADES,** Hunter Douglas; indigo **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Y & Co.; white **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Urban Barn.

RIGHT To remedy the original lacklustre white kitchen, Shirley updated the cabinetry with paint: "I covered the lower cabinets and one of the floor-to-ceiling units in a deep inky blue and replaced the old piddly handles with sleek elongated ones."

Black Blue 95 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **RUNNER,** Y & Co.; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** IKEA; **CUTTING BOARDS,** Elte.

with their personalities. "They're super relaxed and stylish," says Shirley. "I wanted the interior to be bright and eclectic to reflect the homeowners' sensibility."

Renovations were minimal. "I turned the sunroom off the kitchen into a multi-purpose eating area and widened an original archway between the entryway and living room to make the main floor feel expansive," says Shirley. The dark wooden staircase and most of the walls, formerly a mishmash of strong reds and ochres, were invigorated with white paint before new furnishings (the couple had moved in with just their bed) were put in place. "Even though we purchased everything at once, I purposely mixed modern and traditional styles," says Shirley. "Nothing is matching, so it looks like each piece was collected over time."

One room, however, was intentionally left unfurnished: the future nursery. It wasn't for long, though, as the couple's daughter was born the following year and they hired Shirley again. "The nursery is the hands-down best space in the house," says one of the homeowners. It's decorated like any other room, complete with a great rug and grown-up-looking wallpaper. "Our daughter loves the wallpaper. We find her in there peacefully playing in her crib and gazing at the birds." It's a sight they'll never tire of – first, last and always.

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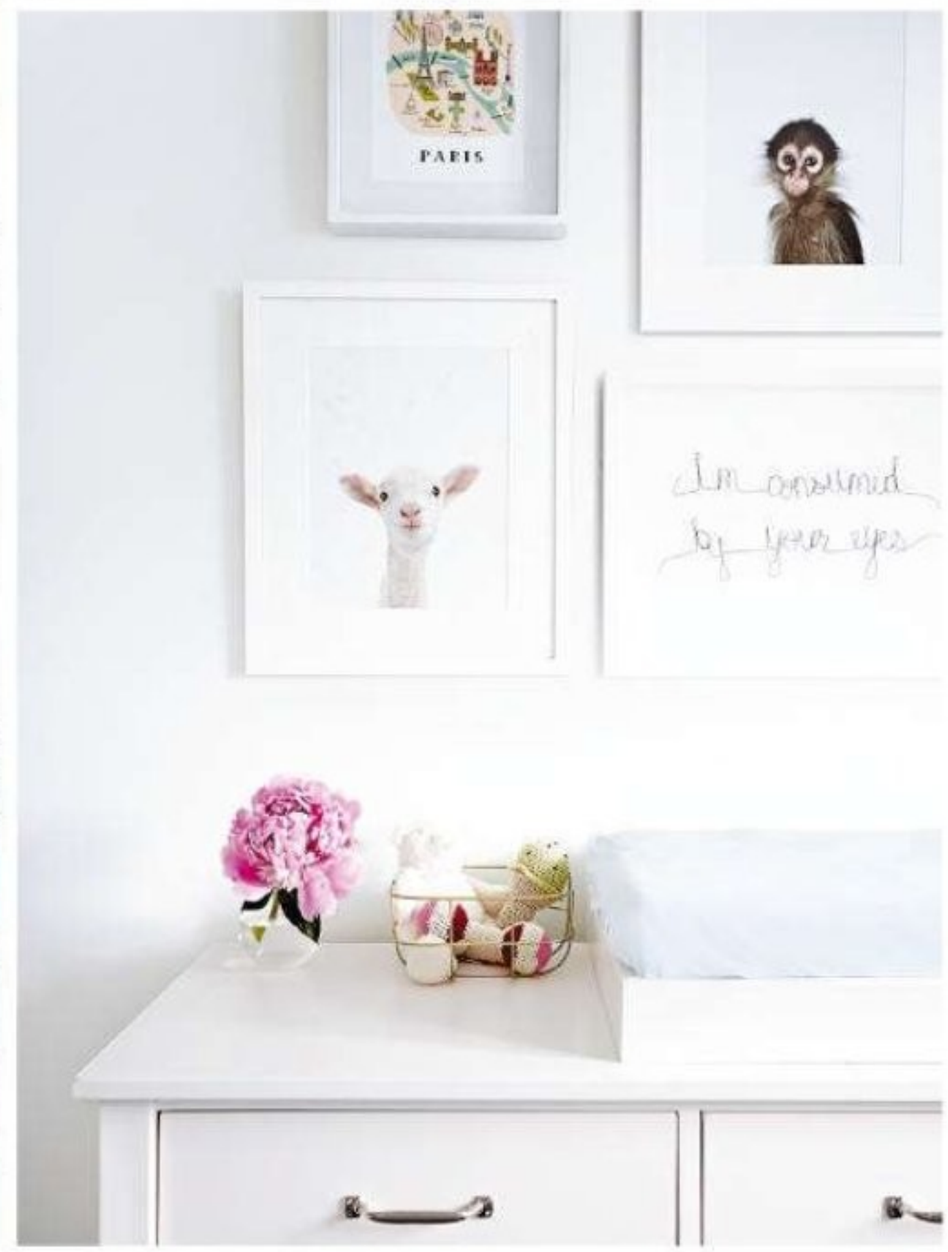
"THE NURSERY IS *the hands-down best space* IN THE HOUSE."

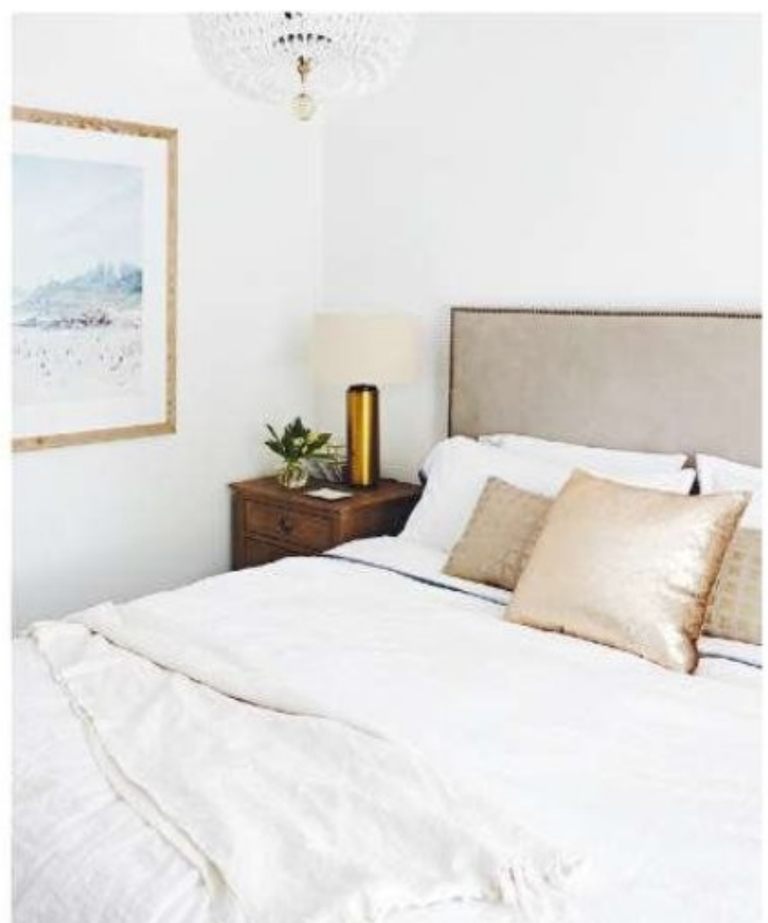


ABOVE & LEFT "My approach is not to be too kid focused when decorating a nursery – anything goes!" says Shirley.

WALLPAPER, Tyler Hall; **DRESSER,** Pottery Barn; custom **DRAPERY,** MHouse; **CRIB SHEET, BLANKET, LUMBAR CUSHION, THROW,** Auggie; **RUG,** RugsUSA.com; Paris map **PRINT,** Rifle Paper Co.; animal **PRINTS,** The Animal Print Shop by Sharon Montrose; *Im Consumed by Your Eyes* **ARTWORK** by Iza Mokrosz, Art Interiors; **CHANDELIER,** Onefortythree; heart **TOSS CUSHION,** Advice From a Caterpillar; **HAMPER,** The Little Market.

RIGHT Subtle warm metallic accents layer a bit of luxury in the minimal master bedroom.

BED FRAME, TABLE LAMP, West Elm; **NIGHTSTAND,** Restoration Hardware; **DUVET SET, TOSS CUSHION, LUMBAR CUSHIONS,** Elte Market; *FB8* **ARTWORK** by Dean West, Art Interiors; **CHANDELIER,** Universal Lamp; **THROW,** Elte.



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MAKE ME OVER

paint

Try one of these 12 bold ideas for waking up your space with paint, wallpaper and fabric.

TEXT BETH HITCHCOCK

1 SOLID SOLUTION

Fill a blank wall with painted canvases in a variety of sizes and colours. This punchy palette was inspired by the Suzani-style rug.

2 FASHION-FORWARD

Make a chic cabana-like statement with bold charcoal grey awning stripes on a white wall. Feminine accessories and touches of coral in the painting and stool fabric add softness to the look.

3 OPTICAL ILLUSION

Refresh a bland staircase with a runner in a can't-miss-it colour. A coordinating stripe atop the baseboard frames the stairs and draws the eye upward.

4 ROCOCO REVIVAL

Put a new spin on an old frame with high-gloss lacquer that highlights its intricate design.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK, STACEY BRANDFORD, GAP INTERIORS, STACEY BRANDFORD

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wallpaper

5 OPEN SECRET

Run a piece of wallpaper down the inside of painted cabinet doors to create a crisp striped effect that's hidden when the doors are closed.

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6 FANTASTIC FEATURE

Choose a vibrant print to create a feature wall – now is not the time to be timid. The repetition of blue makes this vignette cohesive, even when wild florals are paired with streamlined stripes.

7 MATCH GAME

Use wallpaper remnants to cover the insides of a chest's drawers – it's a cool, coordinated look for a bathroom or bedroom.

8 COVER STORY

Unify a grouping of books by making custom covers from wallpaper scraps. To elevate the finished look, stick with a single colour theme.

PHOTOGRAPHY, LIVING4MEDIA, STACEY VAN BERKEL, MICHAEL NANGREAVES, LIVING4MEDIA

fabric

9 PAINT BY NUMBERS

Use paint to customize a black and white fabric. With just a few brush strokes of blue, mauve and chartreuse, this stark print becomes a pastel piece of art that suits the room's soft palette.

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10 REST ASSURED

Go extra grand with scale for a look that's straight out of a European boutique hotel. As an added bonus, the height means you won't need to place artwork over the bed.

11 FADED GLORY

Change up your table setting by dip-dyeing a white tablecloth and napkins to create a sunset-like ombré effect.

12 BANNER DAY

Dig through your scrap bag and pull out enough remnants to make a cute bunting. Using one fabric creates a calm, unified look, while mismatched pieces offer eclectic charm.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK, STACEY VAN BERKEL, GAP INTERIORS, RYAN BROOK

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TRIPLE VISION

The players: *Style at Home*'s design team.
The challenge: Put a unique spin on this nesting-style coffee table and then build a personality-packed room around it.

PRODUCERS ANN MARIE FAVOT, STACY BEGG & MORGAN LINDSAY

TEXT BETH HITCHCOCK | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM

WE LOVE IKEA VITTSJÖ'S STRONG LINES, IDEAL SCALE AND MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY.

before

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SERENE SCANDI

"I gravitate to light, airy rooms – that's just what I like," says senior style editor Ann Marie Favot. Inspired by a fresh pastel palette, she had her coffee table bases painted mint and grey, leaving the tempered glass tops intact. From there, Ann Marie settled on Farrow & Ball's Yukutori wallpaper for subtle colour and texture in the room. Copper-toned accents and a pretty mix of toss cushions finish off the space. "It's my version of Scandi style," she says. "Simple yet decorated."

Yukutori **WALLPAPER** in 03, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; Stockholm **SOFA** (throughout), customized nesting Vittsjö **COFFEE TABLES** (throughout), pink **TOSS CUSHION COVER,** IKEA, ikea.ca; Mindful Gray SW 7016 and Mint Condition SW 6743 **COFFEE TABLE PAINT,** Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com; **COFFEE TABLE SPRAY PAINTING** (throughout), Paint It Like New, paint-itlikenew.com; **SIDE TABLE, TABLE LAMP,** kaleidoscope-print **TOSS CUSHION,** wire **BOWL,** EQ3, eq3.com; **RUGS** (throughout), Imperial Carpet and Home, carpetandhome.com; *Mother Tree* **ARTWORK** by Fred Franzen, Art Interiors, artinteriors.ca; blue knit **TOSS CUSHION,** West Elm, westelm.com; ikat-patterned **TOSS CUSHION,** Tonic Living, tonic-living.com; teal **TOSS CUSHION,** HomeSense, homesense.ca; **MUG,** small stone **BOWL,** La Merceria, lamerceria.ca.

+ easy diy

Senior style editor Ann Marie Favot made a coaster by putting felt tabs under a hexagon-shaped mirror. "The geometric trend is so big right now," she says.

The colours in this toss cushion's graphic print provided the jumping-off point for Ann Marie's scheme.

Complementary colours add interest and dimension to this modern nesting-style table with a linear silhouette.

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London Interiors
ALLEGRA HICKS

MODERN HIPPIE

Design editor Stacy Begg didn't shy away from making a bold change to her coffee table. "I'm really into brights and neons, so I picked the brightest pink I could find for the bases," she says. Stacy continued the pink theme throughout the room with the wall colour and rug, while all the other main pieces – from the sofa and side table to the macramé wall hanging – remain neutral. "It's a mix of industrial, hippie and preppy," says Stacy. "Let's just say I was feeling playful."

"MACRAMÉ DOESN'T TAKE ITSELF TOO SERIOUSLY AND LOOSENS UP THE ROOM."

+ easy diy

Design editor Stacy Begg found these plain Russian dolls in a thrift store and gave them a colour-block treatment with paint in her accent colours.

This lumbar cushion adds a more traditional note to the room. "I love chintz," says Stacy. "It's my preppy side coming through."

Unfinished plywood makes an inexpensive tabletop and speaks to the trend toward lighter wood tones for furniture and flooring.

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com

Pink Popsicle 2001-40 **WALL PAINT,** Forest Moss 2146-20 and Blue Spa 2052-40 **RUSSIAN DOLL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca; Eros Pink SW 6860 **COFFEE TABLE PAINT,** Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com; **PLYWOOD** (used as tabletops), The Home Depot, homedepot.ca; macramé **WALL HANGING,** green **TOSS CUSHION,** CB2, cb2.ca; **TASK LAMP,** solid blue **TOSS CUSHION,** IKEA, ikea.ca; blue pompom **TOSS CUSHION COVER,** West Elm, westelm.com; Schumacher chintz Elizabeth **LUMBAR CUSHION FABRIC** in Multi/Rouge, through designers, Bilbrough & Co., bilbroughs.com; chintz **LUMBAR CUSHION SEWING,** Pat Walker, 416-766-6272.

COMFY COASTAL

"My goal was to play with texture, colour and pattern," says associate design editor Morgan Lindsay. Once she settled on a high-gloss navy for the bases and a faux marble treatment for the tops, the rest of the room fell stylishly into place. A whimsical gallery wall – Morgan's signature touch – breaks up the wave-inspired print of Farrow & Ball's Aranami wallpaper. While the colour scheme is a study in crisp contrasts, the wooden stump side table injects some natural warmth.

+ easy diy

Associate design editor Morgan Lindsay printed out a saying in a font she liked and then covered the letters in gold glitter.

Texture, pattern and eye-catching trim make this grouping of toss cushions pop against the white sofa.

Low-maintenance contact paper mimics the look of marble at a fraction of the price. Navy table bases offer bold contrast.

Aranami **WALLPAPER** in 05, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; Naval SW 6244 **COFFEE TABLE PAINT,** Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com; **PLYWOOD** (used as tabletops), The Home Depot, homedepot.ca; marble-look **CONTACT PAPER** (on tabletops), DYW, designyourwall.com; **SIDE TABLE,** white quilted **TOSS CUSHION,** aqua **TOSS CUSHION,** CB2, cb2.ca; **FLOOR LAMP,** navy polka-dot **TOSS CUSHION,** HomeSense, homesense.ca; pompom **TOSS CUSHION COVER,** West Elm, westelm.com; framed lifesaver tube, ampersand, Bangkok map and flamingo **PRINTS,** Indigo, indigo.ca; top bun **PRINT,** Elizabeth Mayville, elizabeth-mayville.etsy.com.

"MY FAVOURITE APPROACH TO CREATING A GALLERY WALL IS TO MIX TYPOGRAPHY AND ILLUSTRATION."

styleathome etc.

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With their round shape and handy storage, these small-scale U-Turn ottomans are an irresistible piece of furniture. **la-z-boy.com**

FEBRUARY 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

SLOW BURN

Is there anything more satisfying than a well-executed makeover project? We think not. Whether it's an individual room update or a whole-house overhaul, a one-hour whimsy or a months-long renovation, changing up our surroundings is the never-ending fuel for our inspirational fire.

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living the dream

When they couldn't find their ideal house, these homeowners decided to gut a space and start with a clean slate – with a little help from a designer friend.

TEXT SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL GRAYDON

STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

Bright, airy and minimalistic, this beachy-chic dining room feels fresh and inviting. Though homeowner Lindsi Rose fell in love with the light fixture the moment she spotted it in-store, she worried it was too big for the space. "But I love how it casts the most beautiful shadows on the wall at night," she says.

DESIGN, Montana Burnett Design, montanaburnettdesign.com; **CONTRACTING, MILLWORK** (throughout), CompleTO; Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT** (throughout main living areas), Benjamin Moore; **FLOORING** (throughout main living areas), Woodchuck Flooring; **DINING TABLE,** Elte Market; **DINING CHAIRS,** Camilla House Imports; *Lao Tsu Mural, Vancouver* **ARTWORK** by Morris Lum, Gallery TPW; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** CB2.

The Rose clan relaxes and watches TV here in the family room on the second floor. "My husband insisted that we not have a television on the first floor," says Lindsi. "When we're eating with the kids, we want to be talking with them." The artwork above the fireplace was featured on the popular TV show *Gossip Girl*. "The artist signed the back, 'XOXO Richard Phillips,'" adds Lindsi. It's a reference to how each episode of the show ends ("XOXO Gossip Girl").

SECTIONAL, COFFEE TABLE, POUFFE, Elte; **SIDECHAIRS,** Decorum Decorative Finds; Jet Black 2120-10 **MANTEL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **FIREPLACE SURROUND TILE,** Ciot; **RUG, TOSS CUSHION,** HomeSense; *Scout* **ARTWORK** by Richard Phillips, Art Production Fund; *The Black Hills Are Not for Sale* **PRINT** by Shepard Fairey, Obey; **SERVING BOWL,** IKEA.

A photo on Pinterest inspired Lindsi to paint the kitchen island base blue. "And the rest of the design unfolded from there. Just think how different the whole house would look if I had chosen another colour," she says. Lindsi had originally picked cabinetry hardware in a brass finish, "but the black linked the look to the second floor," she adds.

CABINETRY, RUNNER, IKEA; Symphony Blue 2060-10 **ISLAND BASE PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Ciot; **APPLIANCES,** Caplan's Appliances; **FAUCET,** The Home Depot; **STOOLS,** Restoration Hardware; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Ginger's; wooden **SERVING SET,** All the Best Fine Foods.

BELOW The main floor's porcelain powder room floor tiles were cut in half and laid in a herringbone pattern with contrasting white grout to add visual interest to the otherwise minimal space.

Custom **VANITY,** CompleTO; Symphony Blue 2060-10 **VANITY BASE PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SINK,** Home Hardware; **FLOOR TILES** (customized), Ciot; **SCONCES,** Universal Lamp; small **BASKETS,** IKEA; large **BASKET,** HomeSense.

BOTTOM Lindsi may be passionate about design, but it's her husband, Lorne, who chose all the artwork for their home, such as the photo of the bowl of pills above the living room fireplace.

A Pill a Day **ARTWORK** by Beejoir, Moniker Projects.

ABOVE "I love the symmetry and airiness of the living room," says designer Montana Burnett, who paired luxe velvet armchairs and a plush berber-style rug with refurbished antiques, such as the stools.

SOFA, COFFEE TABLE, TOSS CUSHIONS (except ones with elephant pattern), Elte; **ARMCHAIRS,** West Elm; **STOOL SEAT FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **RUG,** One Kings Lane; Schumacher elephant-patterned **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.

Just when they started to think they'd be searching for their dream home forever,

Lindsi and Lorne Rose saw the light at the end of the tunnel. The couple (she's an elementary school teacher, he's a lawyer) had been unlucky in their search for a new house. "The market was crazy, and it was hard to find something in our desired neighbourhood within our budget," says Lindsi. But they were also open to a fixer-upper. "None of the freshly renovated places we saw were done to our taste," she says. "Buying a house at a lower price and renovating it made more and more sense."

So when a 2,500-square-foot three-storey home in midtown Toronto that Lindsi had her eye on dropped its price for the third time in 2013, the couple acted fast. Sure, it needed *a lot* of work. The first floor had a living area, two bedrooms and a full bathroom (that featured a window inexplicably looking into a hallway), while the second floor had a kitchen that looked like it predated the '80s, a bedroom with French doors and only a small powder room. "But overall, the house was open and airy, and I saw its potential," says Lindsi.

What followed was a 10-month down-to-the-studs gut job (which was only supposed to take six months). On the main level, uneven and sloping floors were replaced, and walls thick with

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5 reno take-aways

Homeowner Lindsi Rose shares her top tips for those about to begin a whole-home reno.

BEST ADVICE

"Once the walls are down, all bets are off. Expect surprises – lots of surprises."

MOST WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

"Splurge on sofas – they should not only be super comfy but also look great because they're often the focal points of a room."

BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEA

"Montana proposed a black board-and-batten wall treatment for the master bath. It was something I hadn't considered and couldn't picture, but I absolutely love it!"

FAVOURITE BUDGET FIND

"The light fixture in the dining room, because it casts such a pretty shadow on the walls."

BIGGEST REGRET

"Let's just say that storing your things at your house while it's being renovated is *not* a good idea."

RIGHT The night before she had her son, Lindsi stayed up measuring, mapping out and applying the nursery's star wall decals. "When my husband walked in, he asked why I had put an American flag on the wall," says Lindsi with a laugh.

Symphony Blue 2060-10 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BOOKCASE, BASSINET, PENDANT LIGHT,** RH Baby & Child; **CRIB SHEET,** Pottery Barn Kids; star **DECALS,** UrbanWalls; **RUG,** Elte; white **FLOOR LAMP,** South Hill Home.

layers of wallpaper were knocked down to create a large great room boasting living and dining areas, as well as a brand-new kitchen.

The second-floor makeover was nearly as big, finishing with a bathroom, family room and dedicated bedrooms for the couple's two kids (three-year-old Charlie and 11-month-old Riley).

Designer Montana Burnett – a close family friend who designed Lindsi's last two homes – oversaw the entire transformation, down to the smallest detail. "It was a clean slate, so we chose everything from the drywall to the door hinges," she says. "Everything was completely at our discretion."

The resulting space is bright and airy, glamorous and beachy. "I wanted to bring in a California boho-gypsy vibe that speaks to Lindsi's style, as evidenced in both her wardrobe and her previous homes," says Montana. So a mix of natural and luxe materials, from rattan and sisal to Lucite and velvet, is layered throughout the place, along with a collection of colourful artwork curated by Lorne, an art aficionado.

To establish a sense of cohesion among the layered mix, hits of indigo are carried from room to room on the first floor; matte black does the same job on the upper levels (save for the kids' rooms) – and it all comes together in perfect harmony. "Montana really gets my style," enthuses Lindsi.

After surviving an arduous house hunt and a tough 10-month renovation, Lindsi and Lorne have finally settled in to their dream home – and they couldn't be happier.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

LEFT The master bath has a clear connection to the master bedroom, boasting the same black walls and colourful artwork that matches the bedroom's tie-dye-like rug.

Jet Black 2120-10 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **VANITY,** Restoration Hardware; **FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre; **FLOOR TILES,** Home Hardware; custom **MIRROR,** Darrell Kobza Art Services; *Surgere Supra Bestias NYC* **ARTWORK,** Faile; **SCONCE,** CB2.

"Lindsi and I always knew we wanted a black feature wall with white articulating sconces," says Montana of the bold graphic boho master bedroom, where the street-art-inspired prints found a perfect home. If they look familiar, it's because the artist behind them is famous for these works and others, such as the iconic poster of President Barack Obama titled *Obama Hope*. The nightstand is a vintage Eaton's piece, dug out from Lindsi's mom's basement and powder-coated white.

Jet Black 2120-10 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BED FRAME, STOOL, COMFORTER, RUG, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Elte; **SHEET SET, BASKET,** HomeSense; *Obey Three Face* **PRINTS** by Shepard Fairey, Obey; **SCONCE,** Elite Living.

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AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

This love story, starring a family and the house of their dreams, has a standing-ovation-worthy ending.

A shelving unit in the dining room is an attractive spot to showcase rustic and refined collectibles.

DESIGN, Carrie McCarthy Studio, carriemccarthy.com, Marrimor Studio, marrimor.com; **CONTRACTING, FLOORING** (throughout), MKL Homes; Horizon OC-53 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Oxford White CC-30 **TRIM PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **MILLWORK** (throughout), Art's Custom Woodcrafting; **SHELVING UNIT,** Country Furniture; *Snow Falls Quietly* **ARTWORK,** Heather Ross Natural Eclectic.

TEXT BETH HITCHCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY

The Carrara marble fireplace surround enhances the dining room's old-meets-new mix. A photograph of Paris, the homeowners' favourite destination, hangs over the mantel.

DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, Inform Interiors; **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** Precision Stone Works; **FIREPLACE INSERT,** Kirkland Heating & Cooling; *Place de l'Opéra, Paris, France, 2012* **ARTWORK** by David Burdeny, Jennifer Kostuik Gallery; vintage **PENDANT LIGHT,** Renew Gallery; **BOWL,** Martha Sturdy.

Like most love stories, this one includes a chance encounter, years of yearning and – spoiler alert! – an eventual reunion. But before we reveal the happy ending, let's rewind to the mid-'90s, when Quentin and Linda Adrian used to walk past an early 1900s Craftsman home in their Vancouver neighbourhood of Kitsilano. The couple was smitten with the five-bedroom, three-bathroom charmer, but at the time, it wasn't meant to be. "We thought we could never dream of owning it," recalls Linda.

Fast-forward to 2013, when the Adrians were looking to move into a bigger space that would accommodate their family, which includes their 14-year-old daughter, Isabella, and dogs, Loulou and Cedric. As they began their real-estate search, there it was: the same shingled house they'd loved years ago. "We were thrilled to be able to buy it," says Linda. "It's located in an area full of character homes that's close to the beach."

It turned out that the 2,700-square-foot house hadn't been renovated since the days when the couple used

LEFT Grey-painted Shaker-style cabinets and honed Carrara marble counters give the kitchen a French bistro vibe. "Taking the cabinetry right up to the ceiling honours the home's vintage and provides extra storage," says interior designer Tanja Hinder.

Custom **CABINETRY,** Art's Custom Woodcrafting; Grey Tabby 00NN 16/000 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Dulux Paints; **COUNTERTOPS,** Precision Stone Works; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Daltile; Wolf **RANGE,** Midland Appliance; **DISHWASHER,** DCS by Fisher & Paykel; **FAUCET,** Grohe; **TASK LAMP,** Provide; **DISHTOWEL,** The Gourmet Warehouse.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A sleek console blends in with the living room's millwork; homeowner Linda Adrian and her standard poodle Cedric hang out in the living room; "we added a pile of toss cushions to the dining room banquette to make it feel like a cozy reading nook," says Linda; a modern glass banister and hide rug keep the entryway, with its wainscotting and coffered ceiling, looking current.

CONSOLE, IKEA; Kartell **STOOL,** Livingspace Interiors; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Circa Lighting; **SCONCE,** Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.; ink-print **TOSS CUSHION,** Provide; grey velvet **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Heather Ross Natural Eclectic; patterned **TOSS CUSHIONS,** The Cross Decor & Design.

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Open to the kitchen, the living room has a subdued palette inspired by nearby Kitsilano Beach in Vancouver. Designer Carrie McCarthy brought in some key dark pieces to play against the space's paleness. "I'm a big fan of contrast," she says. "A mix of light and dark gives weight to a room." Carrie also sourced contemporary furniture and lighting to offset the traditional architecture.

SECTIONAL, COFFEE TABLE, Inform Interiors; **RUG,** IKEA; white and pink **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Heather Ross Natural Eclectic; diamond-print **TOSS CUSHION,** The Cross Decor & Design.

"The new look is TIMELESS GLAMOUR. We added STRENGTH AND BOLDNESS, as well as some SPARKLE."

to stroll past it. They were challenged to refresh the space, with its small dark outdated kitchen and mish-mash of flooring throughout, from terracotta tiles to carpeting to wood. "The interior was a little busy – we didn't know where to look," says Linda.

The family lived in the house for one year before hiring Carrie McCarthy of Carrie McCarthy Studio and Tanja Hinder of Marrimor Studio. The designers were tasked with unifying the interior – minus a few walls here and there – and making it the Adrians' own. "The new look is timeless glamour," says Carrie. "We added strength and boldness, as well as some sparkle."

After opening up the main floor, they had bleached white oak floors installed, which reminded Linda of driftwood on the nearby beach. To enhance the light, airy feel, Carrie and Tanja suggested switching out the traditional staircase banister for a more modern version. "We chose a simple contemporary handrail with glass underneath," says Carrie. "It was surprisingly affordable."

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The serene master bedroom is a lesson in layering. Carrie draped a striped linen towel over a dated table to give it a new look. "It's all about using what you have," she says.

BED FRAME, Spencer Interiors; **NIGHTSTAND,** Blake & Riley; **DUVET SET, TASK LAMP,** IKEA; **COVERLET,** The Cross Decor & Design; **TOSS CUSHION,** Heather Ross Natural Eclectic.

OPPOSITE With an original stained-glass window making a statement, the new bathroom needed to be simple and neutral. Dark floor tiles with light grout add interest without becoming a focal point. Above the vanity, a round bevelled-edged mirror adds a soft contrast to all the straight lines in the space.

Custom **VANITY,** Art's Custom Woodcrafting; **BATHTUB, FAUCET,** Robinson Lighting & Bath Centre; **FLOOR TILES,** Fontile Kitchen & Bath; custom **MIRROR,** Geometrix Glass & Design; **SCONCES,** YLighting.com; white **BATH MAT,** Anthropologie; grey **HAND TOWEL,** Le Marché St. George.

Next, they set about reconfiguring the layout by swapping the locations of the living and dining rooms and giving Linda the cook's kitchen she craved. "Before, the kitchen was so small that only one person could work in there at a time," says Linda. Now, the efficient room boasts plenty of natural light, honed Carrara marble countertops (a must-have for Linda) and Shaker-style cabinets that complement the home's original Craftsman architectural features, such as the wainscotting and coffered ceilings.

Most important, the new kitchen is part of a grand scheme that allows the Adrians to spend more time as a family. "It may sound silly, but renovating the main floor brought everyone together," says Linda. A happy ending for a family finally living in their dream house.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

5 reno take-aways

Designers Carrie McCarthy and Tanja Hinder reveal what they learned.

BEST ADVICE

"The more you know yourself and how you want to feel in your house, the more graceful the process and authentic the results."

MOST WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

"Eliminating the ugly old fireplace surround and replacing it with a new marble version. It's simple yet grand."

BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEA

"Flipping the living room and dining room dramatically improved the flow of the main floor."

FAVOURITE BUDGET FIND

"The big-box sisal rug in the living room is a design staple."

BIGGEST REGRET

"Not renovating the semi-basement at the same time to suit the rest of the house."

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Delft pottery mixed with white ginger jars on the dining table complements the fresh blue and white colour scheme used throughout the house's main floor.

OPPOSITE With the homeowners' blessing to add colour to the house, designer Jillian Harris (pictured) chose a striking cobalt blue for the kitchen cabinetry.

"We collected items over the course of the renovation to give the homeowners some really nice decor pieces, and this pottery adds the perfect hit of pattern."

FROM HOUSE TO HOME

In a colourful transformation, *Love It or List It Vancouver* co-host and designer Jillian Harris helps a young family see the bright side of their 104-year-old abode.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

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ABOVE The outdated kitchen, with its heavy dark wooden cabinetry, pea green laminate countertops and broken appliances ("The stove had only two working burners," says homeowner Travis Clarke), was gutted and updated with Shaker-style cabinetry, quartz countertops, counter-to-ceiling herringbone marble tiles and stainless steel appliances. The white island provides a casual place to dine, separates the kitchen from the family room and balances all the blue.

Custom **CABINETRY,** Merit Kitchens; **COUNTERTOPS,** Valley Countertops Industries; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Olympia Tile + Stone; **APPLIANCES,** Coast Wholesale Appliances; **FAUCET,** Kohler; **STOOLS,** Stylus; **BLINDS** (throughout), Wholesale Blind Factory; **FLOORING** (throughout), Mercier; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Design Lighting; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Berenson.

OPPOSITE Jillian created an open-concept space by taking down a wall between the kitchen and dining room, removing a hidden chimney in the process. The archway adds architectural charm.

Ecru CA040 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Standard White CA025 **WAINSCOTTING & TRIM PAINT** (throughout), Cloverdale Paint; **DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS,** Antique Market Vancouver; **CHANDELIER,** Design Lighting.

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Travis and Talia Clarke moved into their century-old North Vancouver home about a year and a half ago with the best of intentions. Eschewing the cookie-cutter look of newer houses, they loved the character of this 2,650-square-foot space with its natural light, high ceilings and pretty backyard. They saw beyond the bizarre combination of cedar panelling, faux brick and plaster from a bad '70s renovation and were keen to restore the property's charm.

But then reality set in. "There were a lot of issues with the house due to its age, and we were overwhelmed," says Travis. Adding to the pressure, the couple was expecting their second child. (They now share the house with Wyatt, 2, and seven-month-old Marlowe, plus their English bulldog, Abby.) This presented a dilemma: Talia wanted to throw in the towel and move, and Travis wanted to persevere and stay. It's a situation right out of, well, a certain well-known TV show.

The couple – Travis is a technical services specialist and Talia is a nurse – ended up calling W Network's *Love It or List It Vancouver*. Designer and co-host of the show Jillian Harris was happy to take on the challenge and transform the house into a home where Talia would want to live. "Our primary focus was making the space functional," says Jillian. But aesthetics were equally important. "With her new baby, I wanted Talia to be able to walk down the stairs every day and think: 'Okay, I'm home.' Not in some dark, dingy, outdated old house."

5 reno take-aways

Love It or List It Vancouver co-host and designer Jillian Harris offers a few words of reno wisdom.

BEST ADVICE

"Before you buy a house that needs renovating, get a quote from a contractor so you know what you're getting into."

MOST WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

"Taking out a hidden chimney was expensive, but it was worth it because it allowed us to create an open layout."

BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEA

"The homeowners asked for colour, so it was exciting to do something different and give them a blue kitchen."

FAVOURITE BUDGET FIND

"The extra-long salvaged-wood dining room table. It was a steal, and the homeowners love it!"

BIGGEST REGRET

"I wish we could have renovated the bathroom on the main floor, just to say one entire level was done."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The kitchen's polished-nickel and glass pendant lights keep the vibe soft and airy; the bay window called for a banquette, which enhances the home's flow: "Instead of centring the table in the dining area, we built a banquette and pushed the table to the side so there's a nice clear passage from the front of the house to the back," says Jillian; the pretty tablescape in blue and white carries the scheme from the kitchen to the living room; a Moroccan-style coffee table adds an eclectic touch and a bit of warmth to the living room ("We added weathered and distressed-wood elements so the house wouldn't feel too formal," says Jillian); homeowners Travis and Talia Clarke welcomed a baby girl this past summer; low-slung with clean lines, the living room slipper chair is the perfect silhouette for the quaint space.

SOFA, SLIPPER CHAIR, Van Gogh Designs; **COFFEE TABLE,** West Elm; **TOSS CUSHION FABRICS,** Layers & Layers Showroom.

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Wainscotting applied throughout the main floor adds architectural interest and is in keeping with the age of the 104-year-old character home. Its clean lines also complement the Shaker-style cabinetry used in the kitchen. A new gas fireplace insert with a substantial concrete mantel replaced an outdated faux brick one in the living room.

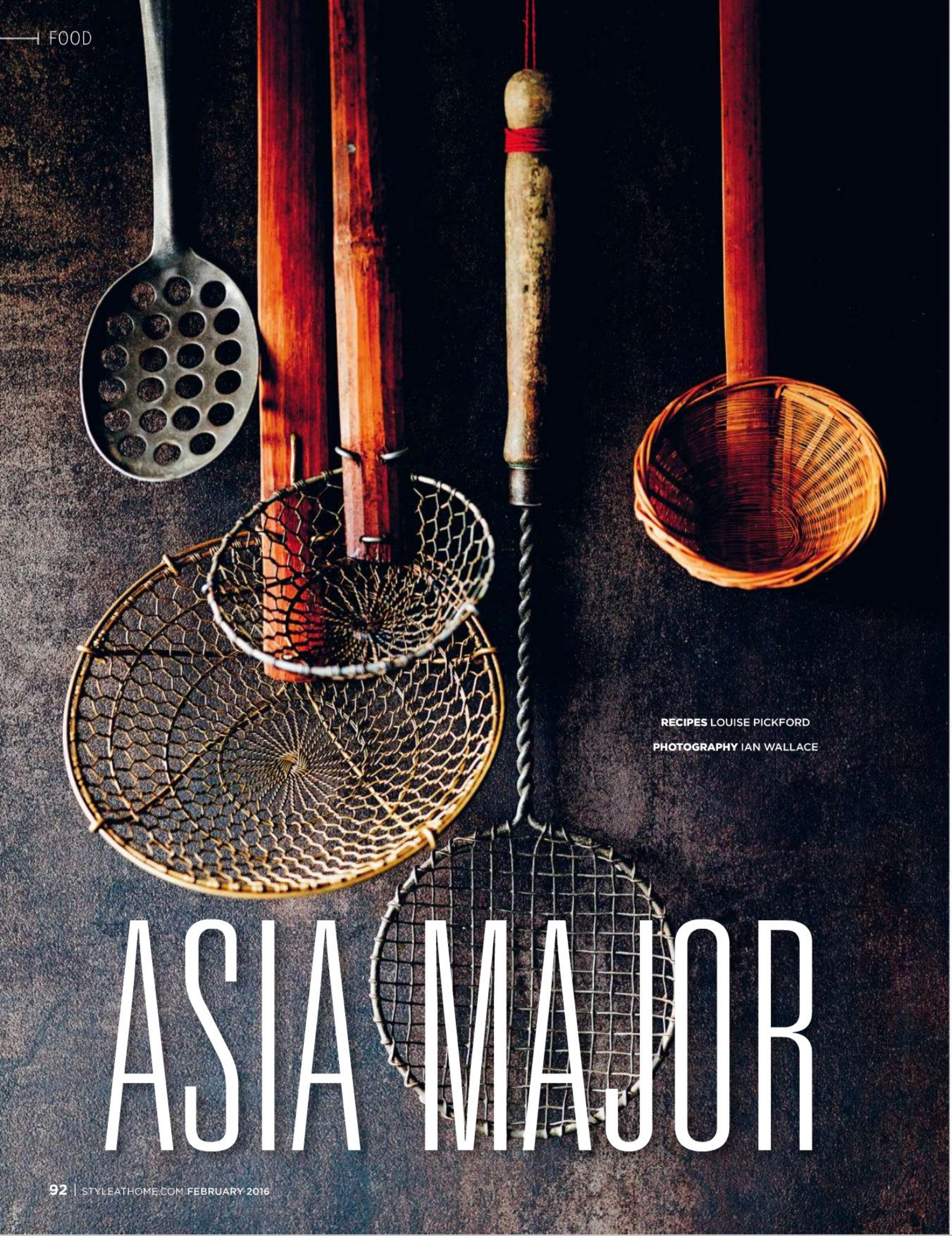
MANTEL, DreamCast Design and Production; **FIREPLACE INSERT,** Valor; **SIDE TABLE, RUG,** HomeSense.

At the beginning, Jillian envisioned creating a new nursery, adding a second bathroom upstairs (the house has only one) and transforming the entire main floor. But budget restrictions had her focusing strictly on the main level (not including the bathroom). Both the homeowners and designer agreed the choppy layout should be opened up. "We wanted to be able to see the kids when they were playing," says Travis. And Jillian was happy when the couple told her they weren't afraid of colour.

After completely gutting and opening up the space, Jillian devised a design that was in keeping with the age of the character house but also accommodated a family of four and reflected the personality of the young homeowners. She incorporated architectural elements like wainscotting and wide-plank hardwood floors to create a traditional envelope, and then she layered in classic and contemporary items in an eye-catching white and blue colour scheme for an overall comfortable, timeless look. "We wanted to keep it fresh and airy, with texture and pattern adding interest and a sense of whimsy," says Jillian.

It took about six weeks to transform the space last summer, an amazing feat for this scope of project, and Travis and Talia stayed with family for much of it. "The last time they saw the house was when we were ripping out a hidden chimney and going down to the studs. Then three or four weeks later when they came home, it was completely finished, right down to the flowers and vases," says Jillian. It's no surprise that they loved the house and, after a few tears of joy, decided to stay.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



ASIA MAJOR

RECIPES LOUISE PICKFORD

PHOTOGRAPHY IAN WALLACE

EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *OODLES OF NOODLES* BY LOUISE PICKFORD, PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN WALLACE (RYLAND, PETERS & SMALL)

Think culinary fusion and the Far East immediately comes to mind – dishes bursting with aroma, colour and a balance of strong and delicate flavours. It's a striking contrast to a time of year in Canada when those qualities seem sadly lacking in our grey and frozen landscape. Enter Louise Pickford and her book *Oodles of Noodles*, a celebration of classic Asian-inspired noodle dishes. We've selected just a few of our favourite recipes to remedy those cold and blustery February days ahead.

BARBECUE PORK NOODLE BOWLS

With Dipping Sauce

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BARBECUE PORK NOODLE BOWLS WITH DIPPING SAUCE

COOK TIME **1½ HOURS** | SERVES **4**

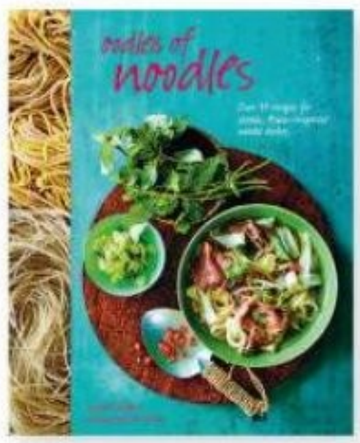
- 1 lb pork belly strips, each cut into 3 pieces
- 3 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 tbsp ketjap manis*
- 1 tsp Chinese five-spice powder
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 9 oz dried rice stick noodles
- 2⅓ cups bean sprouts
- 8 to 12 cup-shaped leaves from a head of iceberg or butter lettuce
- Fresh mint, cilantro and Thai basil
- Asian pickled vegetables
- Nuoc cham or other Asian dipping sauce

Place the pork in a shallow dish. Whisk the fish sauce, ketjap manis, Chinese five-spice powder, pepper and garlic together and pour over the pork. Cover and set in the fridge to marinate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Transfer the pork to a roasting pan lined with parchment paper and roast for 1 hour, turning halfway through, until the pork is golden, sticky and tender. Leave to cool for 30 minutes, until just warm, and cut into pieces.

While the pork is cooling, place the noodles in a bowl, cover with boiling water and soak until softened, about 30 minutes. Drain the noodles, pat dry and divide among four serving bowls. Arrange the pork, bean sprouts, lettuce leaves, herbs and pickled vegetables on plates around the table for people to help themselves. Serve with a bowl of the nuoc cham.

**Ketjap manis is a sweetened soy sauce from Indonesia.*



For more of Louise Pickford's noodle recipes, pick up *Oodles of Noodles* (Ryland, Peters & Small, $31).

BEEF BULGOGI & RICE NOODLE *Wraps*

BEEF BULGOGI & RICE NOODLE WRAPS

COOK TIME **30 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

- 1 lb rib-eye steak
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp golden brown sugar
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 tsp sesame oil, plus extra for dressing
- ½ tsp Chinese five-spice powder
- 4 oz japchae (sweet potato glass noodles)
- 2 tbsp peanut oil
- 4 oz shiitake mushrooms, trimmed and cut into quarters
- Lettuce leaves for wrapping
- 4 tbsp kimchi (optional)
- Ssamjang sauce (optional)

Thinly slice the steak and arrange in a single layer in a wide shallow dish. Combine the soy sauce, brown sugar, shallot, garlic, sesame oil and Chinese five-spice powder in a small bowl and pour over the beef. Set aside to marinate for at least 1 hour.

Add the japchae to a pot of boiling water and cook until al dente, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain, refresh under cold water and drain again. Shake the noodles dry and dress with a little sesame oil to prevent them from sticking together; set aside.

Heat the peanut oil in a wok or large frying pan set over medium heat. Add the beef in batches and stir-fry until golden, 2 to 3 minutes; remove with a slotted spoon. Add the mushrooms and any remaining marinade and stir-fry for 1 minute. Return the beef to the pan along with the noodles and stir-fry until heated through, about 1 minute.

Divide the beef noodles among four bowls and serve with the lettuce leaves, kimchi and ssamjang sauce. Wrap, roll and eat.

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GREEN PAPAYA & CRISPY PORK SALAD

COOK TIME 30 MINUTES | SERVES 4

Vegetable oil, for deep-frying
12 Asian or red shallots, thinly sliced
5 oz dried rice vermicelli noodles
5 oz pancetta, diced
⅓ young or green papaya, peeled, halved and deseeded
1 cucumber, deseeded and thinly sliced
Small bunch each: fresh Vietnamese mint, cilantro and Thai basil
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved or quartered
2 tbsp fish sauce
2 tbsp grated palm or coconut sugar
2 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
2 red bird's-eye or Thai chilies, deseeded and thinly sliced (optional)
4 tbsp dry-roasted peanuts, finely chopped
1 tbsp toasted ground rice*

Pour the oil into a wok or old saucepan until it reaches about 2 inches up the sides of the pan, and set the pan over medium heat. Test the temperature of the oil by dropping in a cube of bread – it should crisp within 30 seconds. Deep-fry the shallots in batches until crisp and golden, 2 to 3 minutes, being careful not to let them burn. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels; set aside.

Soak the noodles in a bowl of hot water until softened, 10 to 20 minutes. Drain well, pat dry and set aside in a large mixing bowl. Meanwhile, dry-fry the pancetta in a small frying pan set over high heat until crisp and golden, 5 to 8 minutes; set aside to cool.

Thinly slice the papaya and cut into long thin strips. Add to the noodles, along with the cucumber, herbs, cherry tomatoes and pancetta.

Whisk together the fish sauce, sugar and lime juice in a small bowl until the sugar is dissolved. Pour over the salad; toss well to coat and divide among four plates. Top with the red bird's-eye chilies, if using, the peanuts and ground rice and serve with the deep-fried shallots.

**Toasted ground rice is made by toasting grains of rice in a wok and then grinding them in a mortar and pestle to form a powder.*

GREEN PAPAYA & CRISPY PORK *Salad*

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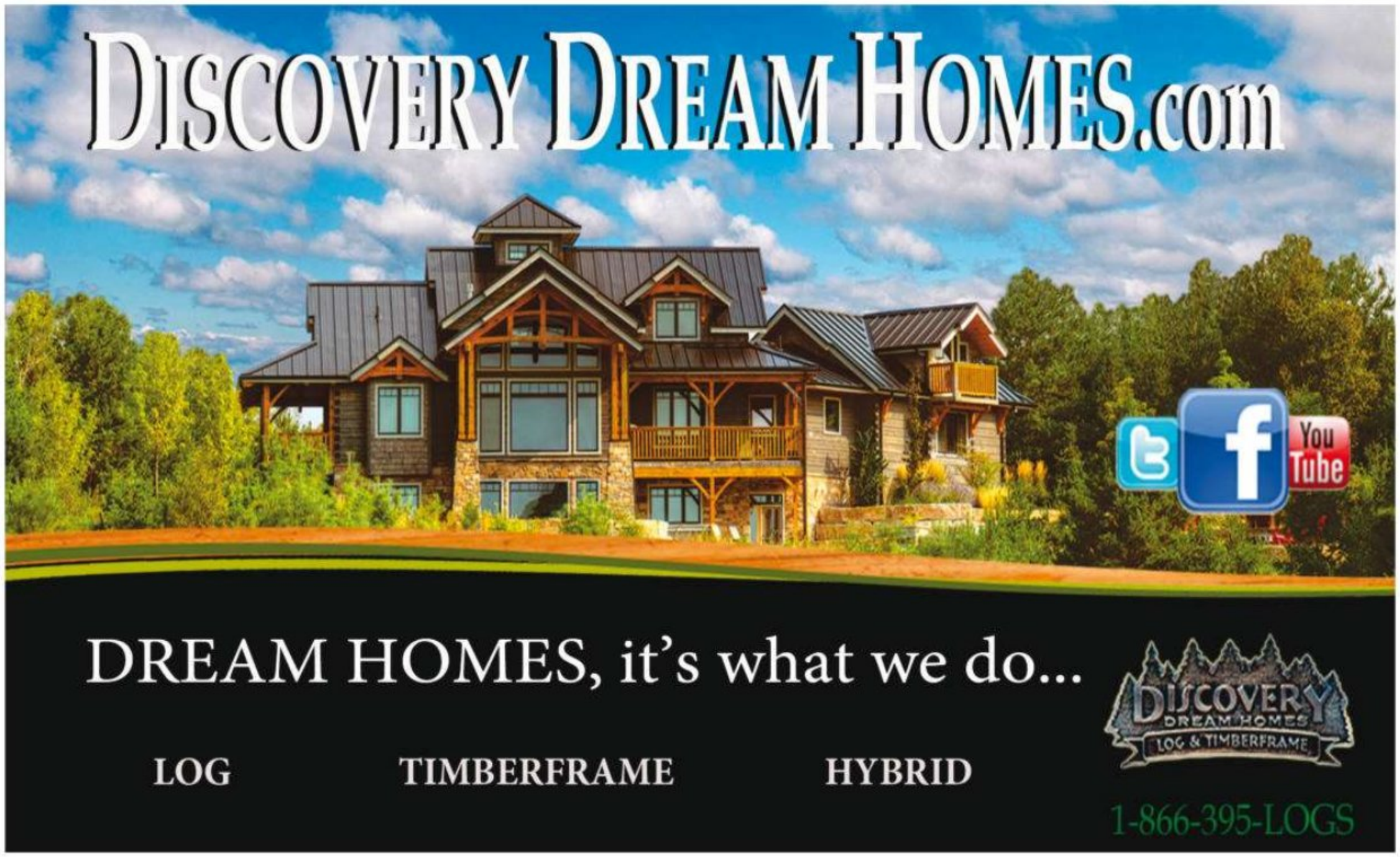

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Part of the beauty of remodelling a space is getting to dabble in unknown decor territory – from reupholstering furniture with statement fabric to spray-painting a lacklustre shelving unit gold – and dismiss the mundane in favour of all things colourful.

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